THE INDEPENDENT

INSIDE TODAY

Pity Paula, says Suzanne Moore 3/NEWS

How to escape Christmas **I6/FEATURES**

A grand day out at the theatre THE EYE



Royal Opera offer PAGE 14

TODAY'S NEWS

Exclusive: women face cancer risk from labs

Women are being put at risk of dying from cervical cancer because some laboratories are conducting too few smears to ensure accuracy. One in five cervical cancer screening laboratories - 33 out of the 181 in England – are not doing enough to ensure that the checkers are properly experienced.

Government officials have been worried about the problem for years and 18 months ago; the health department raised the problem again. Only last week Warwickshire health authoritiy announced it was showed some abnormal results had been missed. The mistakes have been blamed on the inexperience of screeners at a laboratory at St Cross Hospital, Rugby.

Unsecret agent caught

An MI6 officer yesterday admitted he had disclosed confidential information about the security agency. Richard Tomlinson faces up to two years in jail after he became the first MI6 agent to be successfully prosecuted under official secrets legislation for 36 years. Last year he sent a publisher in Australia a seven-page synopsis outlining chapters of a proposed book about his experiences in the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). But he insisted that he'd put no agents at risk. Pages 8

Moralising Earl's 'girls'

Earl Spencer was accused of committing adultery with up to 12 women yesterday. Jeremy Gauntlett, representing Lady Spencer in a South African court, said the earl had "lived an adulterer's life" - a claim strenuously denied last night by Earl Spencer's lawyers. The hearing in the high court at Cape Town will decide whether divorce proceedings should continue in Britain or South Africa. Lady Spencer wants them to be heard in Britain.

Mr Gaundett told the court the divorce case would include details of Lord Spencer's affairs with up to a dozen women. "Within months of the marriage the plaintiff was unfaithful," he said. "There had been a whole series of liaisons thereafter." Page 2

SEEN & HEARD

Baroness Blackstone, the cerebral minister in charge of trying to bring drop-outs back to learning, had her own brush with disaffected youth. As her ministerial limousine stopped at traffic lights in north London, three young squeegee merchants started to clean the car windows. One of them looked about ten and the others were not much older.

Winding the window down she asked: "Do you know who I am? I'm the minister of state for education and you should be at school." One replied that his mother was penniless and he had to go out to work so that his family could eat. But the fascinating moral and political debate which ought to have followed was brutally truncated: the hooting of angry motorists meant the minister was forced to drive on.



TELEVISION The Eye, page 12 CROSSWORDS Page 32 and WEATHER The Eye, page 10

Web address: http://www.

Bloody revenge for stag hunt ban



To the slaughter: At least 36 red deer stags out of an estimated population in the Quantocks of 76 have been shot since the ban on hunting began

At least half the red deer stags in the Quantock Hills have been slaughtered in a savage reaction to introduced by the National Trust and the Forestry Commission. Nicholas Schoon. **Environment**

Correspondent, reveals a bloody propaganda

th their crops being eaten.

missed this as scaremongering right. At least 36 stags have ban." He said more than 36 had been shot and sold to game been killed, and he had made dealers in the past few weeks, £10,000 by selling their venison.

The Quantock Staghounds killed by farmers who no carcasses. "Why shouldn't we? damage by killing deer and said that if they were banned longer see any reason not to It's our fields that feed them from carrying out their sport, shoot them now that hunting the wild red deer an the Som- is banned on trust land. One, erset hills would be wiped out an occasional hunt follower, cal deer expert and custodian, on its 1,300 acres in the Ouan-

Opponents of hunting dis- I'm going to shoot anything that comes into my fields. They but it seems the hunt was didn't consult us about their

out of the 76 counted last Since the trust intended month. Their heads have been shooting deer on its land to piled together and pho- control numbers, it would tographed. They have been make money from selling their

when they come off the hills."

thought sod the National Trust, tainly not going to change public opinion or make the cision on hunting. We can't be held responsible for people challenge was defeated. slaughtering the deer."

young grass but farmers had been willing to tolerate losses.

keeping them on the move.

Last April the trust's coun-Nigel Hester, the trust's lo- cil decided to ban staghunting usually sold to a licensed dealby poachers and farmers fed up told the Independent: "I said: "It's very sad, but its cer- tocks after a report showed trust's council reconsider its de- the chase. It reaffirmed its de- has taken place over the past cision last month after a legal

> The Forestry Commission The herd eats cereals and has issued no new licences for hunting on its land in the

stopping farmers shooting deer on their land. Carcasses are er for venison, for up to £300.

The slaughter, motivated by haustion, pain and damage in and the desire to make a point, six weeks.

It came to light four days before the crucial second reading of MP Michael Foster's Bill to ban hunting with dogs. If it car-Quantocks. The hunt now has ries on at this rate, the herd Many are hunt followers, and far less freedom to roam; it could be in danger of extincalso felt the hunt limited crop goes out less often and kills tion within a few months.

Japan trembles, but it's business as usual here

The market apocalypse predicted by some commentators following the collapse of Japan's fourth largest stockbroker, failed to materialise yesterday. But Diane Coyle and Lea Paterson saw the ambulance chasers gather to mop up the mess.

Just as the smell of blood draws the sharks, news of the collapse of Japanese stockbroker Yamaichi Securities had the headhunters gathering outside its City of London office as employees turned up for work yesterday morning.

During a sombre half-hour meeting the 300 staff were told the bad news: their jobs would go as the operation was wound down during the next six months. About 40 got their redundancy notices yesterday.

At least they had the comfort of knowing that City recruitment consultants were so keen to them snap up that representatives were already lurking outside, waiting to pounce, on a cold, grey morning. The headhunters were outnumbered only by those other predators, journalists and camera crews, on Yamaichi's steps.

A spokesman for one recruitment group, Parallel International, said it was "a bit rich" of journalists to accuse the headhunters of being vultures. But he admitted: "We've had a very fruitful morning." Parallel had received "around a dozen calls" from Yamaichi staff, and had made it onto a shortlist of headhunters selected to help employees find new jobs.

All of Yamaichi's 7,500 employees worldwide will lose their jobs now that it has buckled under the weight of debts thought to be equivalent to about £15bn. The Japanese staff are unlikely to be as lucky as their English counterparts in



Yamaichi president Shohei Nozawa sobs at a Tokyo press conference

Japan's banks and brokerages in an extremely fragile financial state.

Yamaichi concealed the extent of its difficulties through irregular deals which shifted its losses around different parts of the group, and even clients' accounts. Banking experts reckon other financial institutions will turn out to be on the verge of collapse, and expect the Japanese goverument to have to close several others before the crisis has run its course.

Yasuo Matsushita, the governor of the Bank of Japan, tried to dampen fears of a financial meltdown by announcing that the Government would draft legislation intended to increase the size of bail-out funds for banks, insurance companies and brofinding alternative work, with many of kerages to protect against future failures.

❸ ● •

Meanwhile, the reaction in the financial markets to Japan's biggest post-war business collapse was muted. Shares in London ended lower, but it was certainly not the apocalypse some experts had been predicting at the weekend.

The Tokyo stockmarket, closed for a public holiday yesterday, is nevertheless expected to be volatile when it reopens. Shares in South Korea, which has been forced by its own banking crisis to go to the International Monetary Fund for an emergency loan, plunged to an all-time low As long as other financial markets stay

from the smaller Asian tigers like Malaysia and Thailand to the far bigger economies of South Korea and Japan is likely to spill over through two channels: trade and direct investment. There is little doubt that recession in

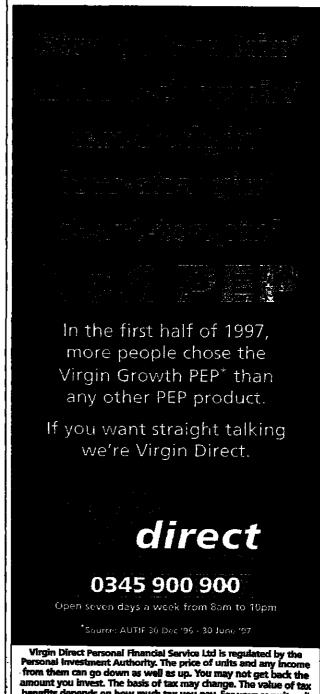
relatively calm, the crisis that has spread

Asia will dent exports to the region by American and European companies. Asia has become an increasingly important export market thanks to its rapid growth.

More worrying for the British economy is the likely impact on direct investment. Korean companies have lately joined the Japanese as significant investors in manufacturing in this country, mainly in the north east and South Wales. South Korea's LG has made the biggest-ever single investment with its £1.7bn electronics plant in Newport, expected to create 6,000 jobs.

- Japanese investments such as those by car giants Nissan, Honda and Toyota are thought not to be vulnerable because they are both mature and profitable. Experts said a question mark could hang over some of the existing South Korean projects. Even if they are all safe, the flood of Japanese and Korean investment to Britain could slow to a trickle for the forseeable future.

Full story page 22, Comment page 21, Outlook page 23.



benefits depends on how much tax you pay. For your security, all

calls will be recorded and randomly monitored. The July 1997 budget confirmed that the tax free status of PEPs will continue

until April 1999, after which it will be subject to statutory change.

2/BRIEFING

COLUMN ONE

Downing Street in a spin over Humphrey

Humphrey the former Downing Street cat was yesterday declared alive by the Prime Minister's office - and they even had photographs to prove

The Government's most senior spin doctors yesterday organised a photocall to deny reports that Cherie Blair had ordered Humphrey, the Downing Street cat, put down because he had a kidney complaint.

'The Blairs like cats," said the Prime Minister's spokesman. "The suggestion that Cherie got rid of Humphrey is a vile slur."

Cheric Blair said the whole family was sorry that Humphrey's failing health meant he had to retire somewhere quieter, away from the hectic pace of life in Downing Street. The reports that Humphrey's death warrant had been signed by Mrs

Blair had been started by Alan Clark, the diarist and former Tory minister. Mr Clark, an animal lover, said the claims that the Prime Minister's wife had an allergy against cats was a cover-up for a dislike of his misdeeds on the floor of the Cabinet Office.

Downing Street insisted Humphrey was not extinct, deceased, and had



not been put down. The Number Ten mouser may have used up most of his nine lives, but he was resting in retirement at his new home, somewhere in a "quiet suburban place".

The Independent's suggestion that this could be a cemetery was brushed aside by the Prime Minister's top spokesman. Humphrey was alive, and well, and they had the photographs to prove it.

Like a hostage held by a guerrilla group, Humphrey was photographed with a copy of yesterday's paper to prove it was a recent mug shot.

A Press Association photographer who was called to a secret location to take the portrait of Humphrey was said to have recognised the black and white moggie.

The plot surrounding Humphrey's departure from Number Ten deepened as Downing Street also disclosed that he could soon be replaced by another cat. "In due course there will be a Downing Street cat but the public should not either send cats or fax us about cats because the choice will be made by Number Ten." said the spokesman.

Under further questioning, it emerged that another mature cat was waiting in the wings, having already been picked by the Blairs for the vacancy, sparking rumours in Westminster that it must have been vetted by Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio.

The sudden exit from Downing Street may have left Humphrey feeling like Cabinet ministers after a reshuffle, discarded and on the scrap heap.

But his owners say he is enjoying the peace and quiet away from it all. They are asking for the press to abide by Humphrey's appeal for privacy, after the photocalls. There is a voluntary code of practice on press intrusion, and the use of a long lens to capture Humphrey in flagrante in

the rose bed could lead to renewed calls for legislation.

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PEOPLE



Lottery prize stuns youngest winner

yesterday admitted that he "needs a few days" to just now, and I can live off the interest." let his new-found millionaire status sink in.

And the only ambition football fan Stuart Donnelly, 17, of Neilston, Renfrewshire, could think of fulfilling with his £1,923,077 share was acquiring a cal moment when he struck it lucky, Stuart said: "I seat in Celtic's directors' box at Parkhead, Glasgow.

While his delighted parents, May and Danny, celebrated yesterday with champagne, Stuart, (pictured above), had to stick to soft drinks because of his

Nervously facing reporters at Camelot's Glasgow headquarters, Stuart, a trainee pharmacist, admitted that he has no idea what to do with his share of the £25m bumper anniversary draw. "It's not really started to sink in, I'm going to go away for a few days to get it sorted out in my head first," he said.

When asked if he was not a little disappointed that he had to share the cash with 12 others, he said: "I'm

The youngest-ever National Lottery jackpot winner happy with what I've got - the money's in the bank

Smart, who lives with his father Danny, plays the lottery regularly and said he had spent £5 on tickets because of the big jackpot. Reliving the magiwas writing down the numbers as they came out. I was quite happy with three numbers, then four, then five. When the last number 39 came out I shouted 'jackpot', and my Dad jumped on me."

But Stuart has yet to decide if he will continue with his training at Neilston Pharmacy, and his studies at Stow College. He plans to take care of his family, and pledged to pay for medical care if his brother Shaun, who suffers from a rare genetic disorder.

Danny, 42, said of his son: "He is a very caring, down-to-earth boy, very quiet. Hopefully this will not change him.'

Fears were growing yesterday for

the welfare of a wealthy architect's

wife who disappeared 12 days ago

after dropping ber daughter off to

been seen since leaving four-year-

old Celeste at Jonathan Morton's

home in Holland Park, west Lon-

Her sister, Constanza Thomas,

yesterday appealed for anyone

with information about Mrs Mor-

ton's disappearance to come

rated from her husband, a 59-year-

Argentinian born Mrs Morton.

The Metropolitan Police have

called in murder squad detec-

Police were believed to have

searched Mr Morton's London

Gracia Morton, 40, has not

visit her estranged husband.

don on 12 November.

Earl Spencer denies adultery ... Hunt for wife

Earl Spencer was accused of committing adultery with up to 12 women yesterday as a South African court began the first leg of what is likely to be an acrimonious divorce from his estranged wife.

Jeremy Gauntlett, representing Lady Spencer, said the earl (pictured) had "lived an adulterer's life" - a claim strenuously denied outside court last night by Earl Spencer's lawyers.

The hearing in the high court at Cape Town will decide whether divorce proceedings should continue in Britain or South Africa. heard in Britain, where the couple were married eight years ago, because her settlement would be greater in the country where most of her husband's assets are held.

Mr Gauntlett told the court the divorce case would include details of Lord Spencer's affairs with up to a dozen women. "Within months of the marriage the plaintiff was unfaithful," he said. "There had been a whole series of liaisons thereafter."

lawyer, Jeremy Posnansky, as a witness and asked whether Earl



Spencer's alleged adultery would forward. Mrs Morton was sepaaffect the size of a settlement in Lady Spencer wants them to be a British hearing. Mr Posnansky old architect. said it would.

Last night, a spokesman for who is also a British citizen, was Earl Spencer, who would like the last seen when she left her former hearing to be held in South Africa. family home without saying where said: "These are allegations that she was going. Her small Rover car have been made by Lady was left outside the house. Spencer's counsel and are strenuously denied by Lord Spencer."

The earl, brother of Diana, tives, and are concerned that Mrs Princess of Wales, moved to South Morton has not used her credit Africa last year. Lady Spencer, the cards or withdrawn any cash since former model Victoria Lockwood, her disappearance. moved to a property nearby after He called a British family overcoming a series of eating dis-

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home and his cottage in Oxford-— Steve Boggan shire.

UPDATE

HEALTH

Worried shoppers turn to organic food

Food scares and the BSE crisis have helped the market for organic food to double in Britain in the last two years, a new report says today.

No longer associated with vegetarians and "committed activists", three quarters of all shoppers are "sympathetic" to the idea of buying organic food, although young people without children are the most likely to buy them, said the report from retail analysis Mintel.

Sales of organic meat in particular have gone up from £12m in 1994 to £26m last year. Fruit and vegetables are still the biggest organic sellers, worth £124m a year and making up more than 60 per cent of the market.

Overall, including dairy products, flour, cercals, oils, preserves, tea and coffee, the market in the UK is worth £260m. Nearly three-quarters of the produce is imported. Mintel said the market looked set to almost double --- Glenda Cooper again before 2001.



Car of the year prize for Alfa Romeo

One of the motor industry's most highly-sought after awards was presented yesterday to Alfa Romeo, the Italian car makers.

Its 156 model, designed to take on BMW and Audi, raced away with the European Car of the Year award. The car had won critical acclaim when it was launched earlier this year for its style and handling.

The 130 mph model beat off the challenge of the Volkswagen Golf to take the prestigious prize. It goes on sale in the UK next February. Prices are expected to start at £17.000.

"Make no mistake, this is one of the finest mainstream Alfas ever built, said Steve Cropley, editor in chief of Autocar magazine, the official organiser — Randeeb Ramesh of the event in the UK.

EDUCATION

Specialists for primary schools

Primary schools should dispense with "old-fashioned ideas" about one teacher to one class, says a report from school inspectors.

Good use of subject specialists raises standards but even the best schools are not using teachers' subject expertise properly, according to inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education.

The traditional "one teacher one class" organisation places heavy demands on primary teachers who have to cover a much wider range of subjects than their secondary school colleagues, says the report.

Teachers are increasingly well qualified and often have wide knowledge of one subject from their training. Yet their knowledge is not being used. Very small and very large schools are best at using subject specialists.

The report points out that international surveys suggest that better use of specialists may explain why children in some European and Pacific Rim countries do better than their British counterparts in some subjects.

TOURIST RATES			
Australia (dollars)	2.35	Italy (lira)	2,813
Austria (schillings)	20.05	Japan (yen)	212.50
Belgium (francs)	58.90	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.33	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11.6
Denmark (kroner)	Ю.93	Portugal (escudos)	289.6
France (francs)	9.54	Spain (pesetas)	240.2
Germany (marks)	2.86	Sweden (kroner)	12.5
Greece (drachmei)	455.08	Switzerland (francs)	2.3
Hong Kong (\$)	12.69	Turkey (lira)	313,05
ireland (punts)	1.09	USA (\$)	1.6
		* *	te: Thomas Co
		Rates for indicate	ion burboses d

ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

7.30 FOR 8

by Chris Priestley



WE'RE HAVING A BIT HARRISON , FRANK OH? WHAT'S HE BEEN UP TO NOW THE SCH00 BEING SNOTT

KIDS EXPERIMENT, DON'T THEY? WE'VE ALL HAD THE ODD JOINT, EH? IT'S CRACK FRANK



COME ON , PENNY ... ALL

FRANK HE WAS DEALING! THE SCHOOL ISN'T GOING TO EXPEL HIM FOR FEAR OF A SCANDAL.

OH HARRISON WASN'T

USING . THE STUFF,



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مكتان الاحل 3/NEWS

Geldof cast as villain in death of INXS star

Michael Hutchence died by hanging, the Sydney coroner confirmed yesterday. But it may not

to organic food

have been suicide. lan Burrell reports that the Australian authorities are still not certain that he killed himself.

As soon as she arrived in Sydney early yesterday, Paula Yates Institute of Forensic Medicine

to view the body of her lover before it was taken for post- of torture," she told reporters. mortem examination.

During a 22-hour flight from London, a sedated and distranght Ms Yates had drunk champagne to drown her grief and walked up and down the aisle blaming the fall-out from her former marriage to Bob Geldof for Hutchence's death.

The dress she had bought for their planned wedding in January would now be dyed black was driven to the morgue at the for the funeral, she said. "Michael obviously flipped. He

was worn down by three years They call him St Bob but that's a joke. It makes me sick."

Weeping hysterically, she said Hutchence's last words to her were: "I love you. I'm going to phone Bob and beg him to allow the children to come over here with you."

The call to Mr Geldof's Chelsea flat came at around 6.30pm London time. Hutchence spoke forcefully but did not sound as if he was in an acute state of distress.

The Australian, who as a high-earning pop star may be limited in the amount of time he can spend in Britain, is thought to have wanted Ms Yates to take her four daugh-

ters to Sydney for Christmas. It is understood that during the conversation Mr Geldof expressed his concern that his. daughters should finish their school term. The conversation failed to resolve the dispute.

Police were last night due to interview Hutchence's former girlfriend, the actress Kym Wil-

son, and her boyfriend Christo- swered and she slipped a note pher Stollery, who were with him when he made the call to Mr Geldof.

They drank cocktails and champagne before leaving his hotel room at about 4am, Sydnev time.

Detectives said that at 9am. Hutchence made his final call. to another ex-girlfriend, Michelle Bennett. He left an answerphone message, which was not in a distressed voice but caused ber to visit the hotel. Her

under the door. At noon, the body was discovered by a maid.

Later yesterday, Derrick Hand, the Sydney coroner, said: "Post-mortem examinations have determined the cause of death of Michael Hutchence was hanging. However, a coroner's investigation is still to determine whether the death was

The results of toxicology tests designed to find out whether the INXS singer was under the influence of drink or knock on the door went unan-

suicide."

drugs at the time of his death may take several weeks.

Last night, the singer's parents, Kelland Hutchence and Patricia Glassop, said in a statement that they were "extremely shocked and deeply saddened" by the death.

"Michael was an inspiring talent who touched many people around the world with his work and will be greatly missed.

To us and everyone close to him, he was a vibrant human being with an immense heart full

INTOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

The new Barber of Seville: can the Royal Opera get it right this time? THE EYE

Life in LA: the end of the breast implant boom THE EYE

Office theft: it can get you into trouble CITY+



Warhol's gift to fashion **FASHION**

Rock chick jezebel mother of four? Do her a favour

How much pain do we want Paula Yates to be in? Following the suicide of Michael Hutchence, the father of her child and the man she was set to marry, we have heard enough ghastly details of her agony.

Paula's screams and wailing home. Paula, out of control with Bob Geldof for Hutchence's baby daughter in her arms. Whatever comments she has not even be aware of what she obvious for all to see.

Paula. There is an air of "I told a woman. She committed adulyou so" about this horrible sto- tery. When she ran off with ry. Such a lifestyle would have Hutchence and had her breasts to take its toll. Sex, drugs and enlarged she was subjected to rock 'n' roll is one thing, battles the routine misogyny of Ian His-

Real life in all its mundanifantasy and the fantasy imvery good at fantasy, at make der to be with her. believe. This required ruthless determination. She wanted with mummy at home in an apron baking biscuits and potasaying that is what motherhood should be about.

I remember interviewing her at the time. She was tiny, wan, worn out by breast-feeding her third child and you didn't have to be a shrink to realise that the perfect childhood she was trying to create for her own children was very different from her own when in fact she felt pretty miserable and abandoned.

She refused to see the contradiction between being a working mother and telling other mothers not to work. Female solidarity has never been her forte. She seemed almost to belong to another generation, and when she told me that after 10 years of living together Saint Bob had asked if they had a washing machine I saw how hard she worked to maintain the facade of domestic bliss.

BY SUZANNE **MOORE**

What strenuous work it must could be heard from outside her have been to be a rock chick, a mother of four, a "steaming grief, on the flight to Australia. jezebel", all at the same time yet Paula blaming her ex-husband Paula pulled it off becoming a compelling love/hate figure for death. Paula weeping with her the tabloids. Like Diana, she is perceived to have made a Faustian pact with them that inmade have been reported. No volved both pursuing and allowance has been made for complaining about the publicthe fact that this is a human be- ity she continued to generate, ing in terrible distress who may and like Diana her flaws were

Her chief flaw though ap-But then we have never pears to have been one that is made many allowances for acceptable in a man but not in over children something else. lop on Have I got News for You as well as being continually ty somehow interrupted the compared to Helena Christensen the supermodel ploded. For Paula was always Hutchence had dumped in or-

How could a short thirtysomething mother of three Geldof and she got him. She compete with such a perfect wanted to make a family life that creature and win? We didn't rehad done so through sheer . force of personality cheered to printing, so she wrote a book many of us up. However, Paula Yates has always been a difficult woman to defend in that despite her obvious intelligence and re-

Bob Geldof returning to his home in Chelsea yesterday. He and Hutchence spoke by phone on the eve of the Australian's death Photograph: Rui Xavier sourcefulness everything she ing to women as it has been athas done appears to revolve tractive to some men. Eventu-

The Tube to drooling interviews on the Big Breakfast bed, her brand of femininity attention-seeking, coquettish, spoilt, little-girlie has been as irritat-



Yates and Michael Hutchence: Despite her intelligence, everything she has done appears to revolve around men

From professional flirt on and the battles with Geldof over their children might have made her do so had she not also been busy describing her sexual exploits with her new love.

Her constant need for male attention and reassurance often feels not like the act of Little Miss Trouble - the slogan on the T-shirt she cheekily wore - but of a deeply insecure little girl, which of course she once was.

She will not be able to play that game any longer and I feel desperately sorry for her. The one thing she needs right now may be privacy but I doubt it will happen. She may be a grieving mother of four, not the adjunct of a famous man, but we still want to see her tears, to see if she continues to behave well or badly. Desperately juggling all her roles - mother, lover, career woman, little girl, harlot, journalist, ex-wife, she now has to play the one that nothing could have prepared her for - widow.

SIEMENS

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Britain wired for fun, not wisdom

Does your home have a fax, Internet link, or mobile phone? Then you're not alone - we are all embracing communications technology as never before. But what does it mean for society? Charles Arthur, Science Editor, investigates.

Britain is becoming a "connected nation", where access to instant communications systems is taken for granted. If all fixed phone numbers are your home does not include a mobile phone, answering machine, fax or Internet connechave at least one of those, says a government survey

Statistics (ONS) found that 94 per cent of households now have a fixed telephone - com- mercially available in 1994 - is pared to 1972, when only 42 proving popular too, with 5 per per cent did - and in one-fifth cent of households connected.

GADGETS: A GENERATION OF CHANGE

Percentage owning TV set (one or more) Satellite/cable receiver Fixed telephone Mobile telephone Internet connection * includes black-and-white and colour

of the 22 million addresses in the UK, at least one person has a mobile phone. Yet a third of Steven Barnett, senior lec-

now ex-directory. Computer technology is also invading our lives. Since tion then you are in the the personal computer was minority: 51 per cent of homes introduced in the early 1980s, its use has risen until now 29 per cent of households have a The Office for National PC, compared to 9 per cent in 1984. In parallel, the Internet - which only became com-

Source: Office for National Statistics

The highest percentage was in London, where 21 per cent of PC owners were wired up.

Westminster University, warned that such trends could lead to divisions between the "information rich" and "information poor", because the latter will not be able to afford the devices needed to stay in touch. "It could leave people behind in a profound fashion."

He also feels that the growth in mobile phone use reflects "the frenetic society" in lite are a minority interest."

which "angst drives people through the day".

The ONS began its inquiry to find out how office equip-

ment was being used in homes. However, Dr Barnett reckons that wider use of PCs at home does not mean that we are turning our homes into minioffices. Instead, the growth of computer and Net use is almost certainly mostly for entertainment rather than enlightenment or education - apart from that of children.

The ONS also found that 27 per cent of homes now have either cable or satellite receivers - biased slightly to the North, turer in communications at where 31 per cent have it, against just 21 per cent in the South-west. Dr Barnett interprets this as a sign that terrestrial television can expect a bealthy future. "These figures suggest that only a quarter of households have chosen it That means three-quarters of households have chosen not to have take it. It supports the suggestion that cable and satel-

V saved from ban on hidden cameras

The Broadcasting Standards gling art treasures. "Since The In-Commission has backed down dependent's report the BSC has over a Draconian new privacy code that could have ended the it now strikes a balance between right of documentary makers to film in secret

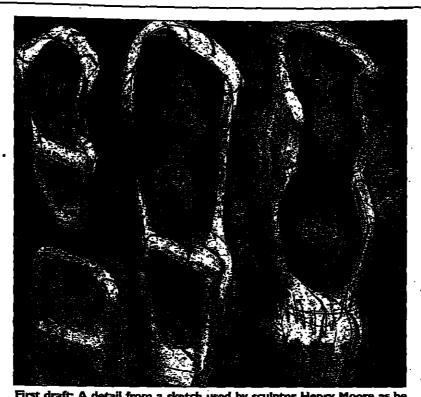
Television researchers raised Independent in April that the BSC was proposing a code that would require an "overwhelming" public interest before programmes like World in Action or if the programme-makers are Dispatches could use hidden trying to expose or detect a cameras. The BSC has now rewritten the code before it becomes law in January so that reporters just need an "overriding" public interest.

The first draft was appalling", said Bernard Clark. cy, Broadcasting Standards Com-Disputches programme that used London SWIP 3JS. a hidden camera to expose Sotheby's involvement in smug-

whittled down the code so that respect for an individual's rights and our ability to do our job properly. If the draft code had concerns after a report in The been approved I would have moved to making Blue Peter."

The public interest can now over-ride an individual's right to protection from secret filming crime or disreputable behaviour, if they are protecting public health and safety, exposing misleading claims or disclosing incompetence in public office. Code on Fairness and Privawho produced the Channel 4 mission, 7 The Sanctuary,

— Paul McCann Media Correspondent



First draft: A detail from a sketch used by sculptor Henry Moore as he worked on Internal/External Forms. It could fetch £25,000 at Phillips today

Minister defends food agency retreat

The Government White Paper on the Food Standards Agency, the independent watchdog for safe and healthy eating, has been delayed until the New Year, the Prime Minister's office revealed yesterday. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, looks at the Government's climbdown.

Whitehall yesterday moved onto the defensive in an attempt to damp down reaction to yesterday's exclusive report in The Independent, which disclosed that ministerial work on the agency had been halted by a letister without Portfolio.

Mr Mandelson's intervention is said to have echoed strong lobbying from vested interests in the powerful food industry, who oppose the agency controlling questions of nutrition.

Scientists state that poor diet is a big contributor to cancer, heart disease and diabetes and the agency needs power to advise public and ministers on the nutritional quality of diet. Denying any question of dif-

ficulty, a spokesman for the Prime Minister's office said he was not aware that a date had been set for publication of the White Paper, although the Ministry of Agriculture issued a press notice at the end of August saying that it was expected in the autumu.

Whitehall officials went further in recent discussion with the Transport and General Workers' Union, which has planned to issue a detailed report, Food Safety: an agenda for action, this week.

The union - which has 200,000 members working in the food industry - was told that as the White Paper was to be published this week it would be better if they brought forward their launch to last week, which they did at very short notice. .

That report reiterated the advice of Professor Philip James, the food scientist who was com-

ter from Peter Mandelson, Min-recommendations on the powers and scope of the agency. It said: "FSA's remit should cover every stage of the food chain, from plough to plate, including issues of nutrition."

There was no dispute over that question yesterday, and the No 10 spokesman said there was no question of any inter-departmental war. He insisted that what the Government wanted from the White Paper was clarity - which Jeff Rooker, Minister for Food Safety, duly delivered in an interview with BBC radio's World at One.

He said that while the agency would have "a substantial role in nutritional aspects", along with the Department of Health, it would not be telling people what to eat. "Its basic function," he added, "will be to ensure the safety of food production throughout the whole of the food chain".

That does not detract from the statement made by ministers to interest groups last month, when they said: "Ministers are convinced of the overwhelming arguments for FSA taking this major role in nutrition...

"Ministers expect to propose in the White Paper that PSA will be the principal source of advice on nutrition and of proposals for food policy in relation to nutrition; while health departments will continue to lead on public health policy and missioned by Tony Blair to make wider advice on lifestyle."

Jason was eight when his parents were tragically killed in a car accident. His sisters were six and two. Coming to terms with the devastating loss of your parents is hard enough for anyone. But imagine having to deal with this terrible grief, at the same time as the prospect of being separated from your brother and sister.

Understandably, in this case the children became very unsettled at school and started playing up. Barnardo's found the children foster parents who were happy to give all the children a home together.

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Early end to beef ban in jeopardy

Jack Cunningham, the Minister ments of cows between herds for Agriculture, flew to Brussels can be reliably traced thanks to last night for urgent talks with a unique data base which will the European Commission only be replicated in the rest of after EU veterinary inspectors raised obstacles to an early ending of the ban on British

In an unpublished report to the consumer affairs commissioner, Emma Bonino, they raise doubts about the safety of sought clarification on whether controls in Northern Ireland, the Commission will now be rewhere the incidence of mad cow quiring further changes on the disease is extremely low and ground before it can recomwhere cattle tracing systems mend a resumption of exports. have been in place for eight

EU governments would back nated for the home market. even a partial lifting of the embargo for cattle which can be sioner Franz Fischler must now certified free of BSE.

This comes as a severe blow to Ulster's farmers, whose ex- before a meeting of the powport dependent industry has erful EU standing veterinary been decimated by the beef ban and who had been optimistic that at least some meat would be back on Continental shelves , sue its recommendation on the by Christmas.

posal to ease the ban on meat controls will slow down the defrom BSE-free herds Northern cision even in the unlikely event Ireland had hoped to benefit that enough governments were first because of the low incidence of BSE in the province laxation of the ban. but crucially because the move-

the UK by next March.

But following visits to Ulster two weeks ago the inspectors have said they are not fully satisfied with the cattle registration system. In talks with Ms Bonino last night, Mr Cunningham

According to Brussels officials the doubts raised by the in-The findings, which were spectors centre on the failure of passed on to the Government the Northern Ireland authoriat the weekend, make it all the ties to apply the cattle database more unlikely that a majority of scheme fully to animals desig-

> She and the farm commisdecide whether to demand tighter controls from Ulster committee which meets next Tuesday and Wednesday.

The committee is due to iscertified herds scheme. Check-Under a government pro- ing on the implementation of prepared to back a partial re-

- Katherine Butler, Brussels

BBC pays up in rights case

The BBC has had to pay £500,000 compensation to an independent production company for trying to deprive it of its share of overseas rights for the detective series Dalziel & Pascoe. The Corporation paid the money to Portobello Pictures on Friday night, just days before it was due to go to court and defend a charge of breach of contract and misrepresentation.

Portobello Pictures, co-producer, took the series to the BBC and claimed it was due a share of the money paid to the Corporation for the programme by the American cable channel A&E Network. Portobello's managing director Eric Abrahams said: "It is a matter of great regret that a publicly-funded body like the BBC should waste hundreds of thousands of pounds in legal fees alone trying to evade its contractual obligations."

The BBC maintains that the co-production contract contained 'highly unusual clauses' and that the final settlement was lower than Portobello's original claim.



mants case

American studies confirm that sperm counts have halved over past 50 years

Sperm counts are falling faster than has been thought, according to the latest US surveys. Jeremy Laurance, Health **Editor, examines** whether modern living is to blame for declining

male fertility.

American researchers who set out to dispel fears of falling sperm counts said yesterday that they had found to their dismay that sperm counts are even lower than had been reported.

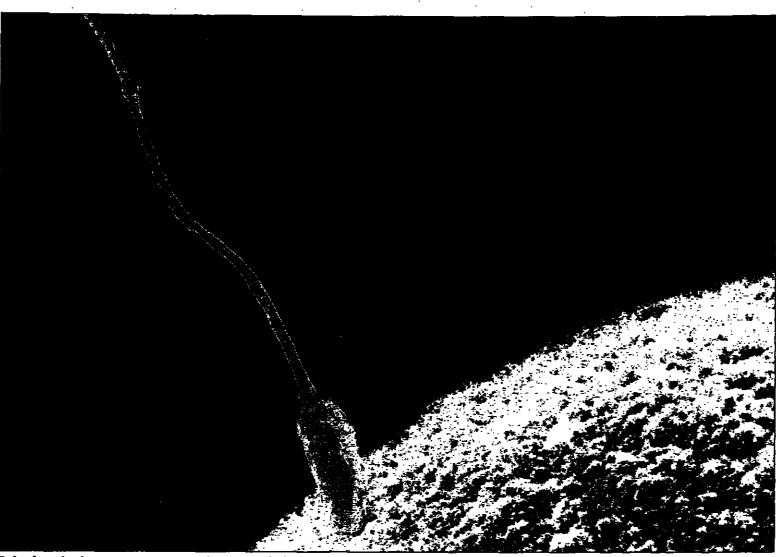
Two reviews, by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Institutes of Health, have confirmed earlier findings showing that average sperm counts have almost halved over the past 50 years.

Shanna Swan, chief of the reproductive epidemiology section at the California Department of Health Services, who carried out the review for the National Academy of Sciences said: "I think this study will change the debate about sperm decline from 'if' to 'why'."

The academy asked Dr Swan to write the definitive report on the issue, which has been bubbling since 1992 when Niels Skakkeback and colleagues at Copenhagen University reported that sperm

studies published since have men born in the 1970s had 25 per cent fewer sperm than those born in the 1950s, while a US study found men in New York had high sperm counts,

Some experts have questioned the accuracy of sperm



counts were falling around the Dying breed: a human sperm penetrating an egg during fertilisation

Photograph: Science Photo Library

caused a flurry of debate, and sent the same samples to different hospital laboratories shown conflicting results. found counts varied widely, British research found that with some rated infertile. They said that counts made 30 or 40 years ago are likley to have been still less accurate.

Dr Swan's group re-analyzed the 61 published studies with no evidence of a decline. on sperm count that the Copenbagen team originally used. She said she had expected

which she had found "frankly suspicious because of its simplicity". But, after careful

analysis, she changed her mind. "Overall, in Europe and the United States there is a strong and significant decline," she said. She has since started her own analysis of sperm counts from 1938 to 1996 and the ear- declined at about twice that ly results show the same downward trend. "I have done

that," she said.

The National Institutes of Health review found sperm counts in the United States declined annually by an average of 1.5 million sperm per millilitre, or about 1.5 per cent per year between 1938 and 1990. Those in European countries rate (3.1 per cent per year).

Environmental pollution counts. British researchers who to contradict their finding enough work to be sure of is the most likely cause of the

decline. Dr Swan said: "Once hormones. They are found in we rule out differences such as soil, water and food, and are smoking, temperature, age and long lasting. ethnicity, what we will have left

Dr Swan said fertility was not the big issue, as babies were still being born. "However, trial chemicals, including the sperm count is a marker, a red pesticide DDT and those used flag, for testicular cancer. We would expect wide-ranging efic the hormone oestrogen in fects. You cannot affect something like the reproductive their effect on the body, either bringing out feminine charac- system without affecting othteristics or counteracting male er systems in the body."

Cervical cancer laboratories deal with too few smears

One in five cervical cancer screening laboratories deals with too few smears to ensure accuracy. Jeremy Laurance reveals that Government guidelines on the minimum size of labs are being ignored, putting women at risk.

Women whose cervical smears are processed in small laboratories are at greater risk of having the early signs of cancer missed because the screeners who check their smears have too little experience.

Official figures show that 33 out of the 181 laboratories in England are still screening fewer than 15,000 smears a year, 18 months after the health department announced this was the minimum number necessary to ensure screeners had sufficient expertise to detect abnormalities.

Last week Warwickshire health authoritiy announced it 18,000 women after checks and training." showed some that were abnormal had been missed. The mistakes have been blamed on the inexperience of the screeners at the laboratory at St Cross Hospital, Rugby which was processing fewer than 7,000 smears a year. The errors are the latest in a series of scandals that have rocked the cervical cancer screening programme. Earlier sential women did not lose faith this month Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, announced a national review of the breast and cervical screening programmes following disasters at the Exeter breast screening centre and at the Kent and

screening laboratory. The 15,000 minimum number of smears for each laborain March 1996 by Sir Kenneth per 100,000 since 1979.

Canterbury hospital cervical

Calman, the Chief Medical Officer. This re-iterated advice originally issued by the medical royal colleges, backed by a Government circular, in 1988. Health authorities were expected to exercise their financial muscle in the NHS internal market to achieve change.

Despite these instructions, the lab at the St Cross Hospital, Rugby, is the only one processing fewer than 15,000 smears a year that has since closed. Of the 34 small labs operating at March 1996, 33 are still in operation today.

Julietta Patnick, co-ordinator of the national service, said: "The St Cross lab was too small. They just weren't spotting the abnormalities."

She said proposals to shut smaller labs and transfer their work to larger ones had run into oppositon from groups who wanted to keep the work done locally. But no matter how good the screeners a small lab did not see a sufficient number of abnormal smears. "With small labs there is always a question about their casemix and was re-examining the smears of their viability in terms of staffing

The national review announced by Mr Dobson requires all health authorities and trusts to draw up an action programme by next February to ensure all screening programmes meet national standards. Ms Patnick said that despite the problems the screening service was saving lives and it was esin it. "We can't excuse what has gone on but the mortality and incidence are dropping like stones. The programme is working well but it could be better."

Cases of invasive cancer have fallen from 16 to 11.2 per 100,000 since 1979, exceeding the target of 12.8 to be achieved by 2000 set under the Health of the Nation strategy. The death tory was set in guidelines issued rate has declined from 7 to 4.1

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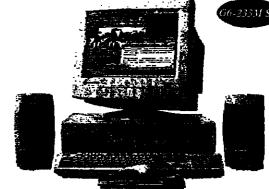
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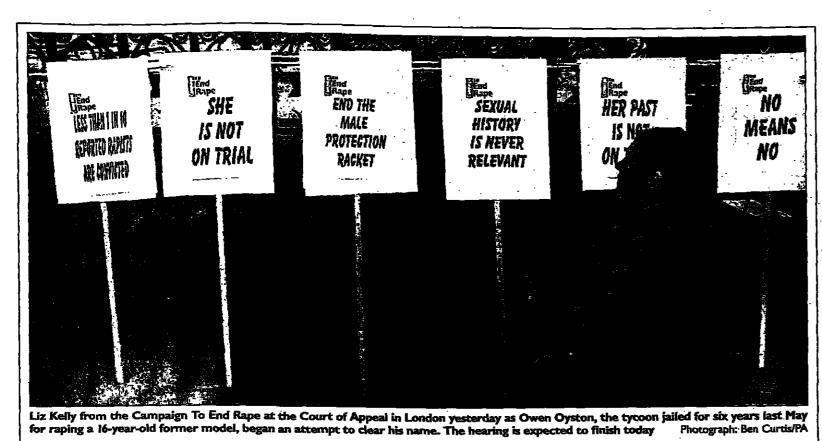
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A Labour betrayal of desperate people

summoned leaders from a London borough after a highly critical report said it was failing to provide care for its most vuinerable people. Glenda Cooper, Social: Affairs Correspondent, reports on 'continuing problems' for Barking and Dagenham Council.

Inconsistent assessment of needs, poorly planned care and limited services have led to a very worrying" situation in Barking and Dagenham where the needs of vulnerable people are not being met.

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services as poor - twice as many as any other social services department that has been reviewed so far by the Audit Commission and the Social Services Inspectorate.

Unfair and inconsistent assessments have led to cases such as that of the non-English speaking man who spent 12 years in a residential home where no one spoke his language or the severely disabled woman who was not assessed for more than two years.

The situation has been blamed on an out-of-date assment system and poorly targeted resources in the east London borough. Barking and Dagenham is among the most deprived 5 per cent of authorities in England and spends £36.9m on social services - 2 per cent of the council's overall budget.

It is not the first time the borough has come under fire. In 1993, health inspectors at-Dagenham because it was having difficulties implementing the new community care legislation. "This report reflects continuing problems in the borough," said Sir Herbert Laming, chief inspector of the Social Services Inspectorate. "They may have made progress since 1993

but not sufficient progress. "Barking and Dagenham council has failed to tackle fundamental management quessocial services to the vulnerable people who depend on them."

said that they had to wait two

One in four people rate the pared to only 14 per cent in other social service reviews.

Elderly people were particularly badly served, and five out of the authority's eight old people's homes did not meet the registration requirements of other providers.

"Overall, while many people in Barking and Dagenham receive services, they are so thinly spread that the quality is poor," said Andrew Foster, controller of the Audit Commission. "The authority tries to provide services for all, but it is simply

not geared to deliver them. The report recommended that the council must improve the way it decides priorities and manages resources by targeting funds better. Partnerships should be extended with voluntary organisations and management problems must be addressed.

Health minister Paul Boateng said yesterday: "Because of the seriousness of the concerns, I have asked to meet with key members and officers tempted to sort out Barking and of the council ... I will however expect them to demonstrate to me that they will be able to prepare and implement an action plan to improve on the failings exposed in the report."

Barking and Dagenham Council said yesterday that it accepted the recommendations of the report and a full action plan would be developed within the next three months.

This is the 11th review of its kind and is part of a rolling protions and therefore offers poor gramme of reviews of social services departments in England and Wales. Last month, Sefton One in four people who re- social services in Merseyside quested help from the council came under attack for failing to meet its statutory responsibiliweeks or more before someone ties for providing care for oldcontacted them - this com- er people and children.

SHORTFALLS OF THE SYSTEM

 An elderly Indian man who speaks no English was placed in a residential home for 12 years where no one spoke his language.

It took two and a half years for a middle-aged severely disabled

 An elderly man needing placement in a Jewish home had to wait. four months in a hospital bed for placement because the budget for

non-borough homes is so restricted although beds were available. A young person with a learning disability living with parents is putting the mother under a great deal of stress. However, they have been told that the critical psychological support to deal with

the behaviour is not available for six months. Mr B who suffers from multiple sclerosis will "sit in agony for hours rather than call anyone" because he was given no information about a carer's group, did not know who to contact about their nome care, and considered it too risky to complain.

Life for car park menace

A teenager received two life sentences yesterday after a judge described him as a danger to the public. Leeds Crown Court heard how 18-year-old Robert Devonshire dropped a lump of concrete on to a 64-year-old man from the top of a multi-storey car park just three months after being released from a young offenders' institution for an identical attack,

Devonshire was sentenced to four years in September 1995 for dropping a 13-pound scaffolding pole onto eight-year-old Simon Teece from the top of the car park at the Ridings Shopping Centre in Wakefield. Devonshire was released on 15 November 1996. On 24 February this year, he went back to the same car park and dropped a three-pound lump of concrete

which hit and slightly injured safety officer Bernard Atkinson. Judge Brian Walsh said: "I am satisfied that you are a dangerous young man. Doctors have described you as _ too switched off and remote to be recognised as treatable."

Workload 'led to RSI'

Bank staff developed problems with their upper limbs when their workload was increased "substantially", a court was told vesterday.

Five former workers at the Midland Bank's processing centre in Frimley, Surrey, are claiming compensation after suffering repetitive strain injuries. The test case, which opened at Southwark Crown Court in Loudon yesterday, is

expected to last a month. John Foy, acting for the five women, told the court that the part-timers worked intensively on keyboards, keying information from cheques into computers. Mr Foy said the staff had to work on inadequately designed equipment and with poor working posture. There was a lack of training on posture and good working practices and the management was "oblivious" to this, he said.

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Sardines don't."

Straw 'acting unlawfully' **over Hindley**

A senior retired judge criticised the Home Secretary over his decision to keep Myra Hindley behind bars. Meanwhile, Jack Straw revealed plans to equalise sentencing across the country.

Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent, looks at the debate over sentencing policy.

Mr Straw yesterday announced plans to set up a panel to advise the Court of Appeal on guidelines to ensure that sentencing by courts around the country is consistent. At the same time, he came under fire from backbenchers and a retired Appeal Court judge over his decision to keep Hindley in jail for the rest of her life.

The Home Secretary told the Commons that the Government is committed to introducing "greater consistency" in sentencing from courts through provisions in the Crime and Disorder Bill, to be published next month.

Under his proposals, the Court of Appeal would be required to formulate rules on how lower courts across Britain sentence those convicted of criminal offences. Although this already happens in certain offences, such as rape, the idea is to extend this to other areas. The Home Office believes that the current ad hoc arrangements lead to levels of sentencing which vary according to where a person is convicted, which undermines confidence in the to whole life. However, even if

Alan Beith, for the Liberal nouncement on sentencing. But the final say on whether she he added: "Sentencing policy is should be released.

only as effective as the prison and probation to which it directs - and an overpressed prison service cannot work miracles,"

Meanwhile, a former Appeal Court judge last night criticised Mr Straw's ruling that the moors murderer, Myra Hindley, should never be released.

Sir Frederick Lawton, in an interview with BBC TV's Panorama, described Mr Straw's decision as both unreasonable and unlawful. If the decision had been left to judges. Hindley would probably be free, he added.

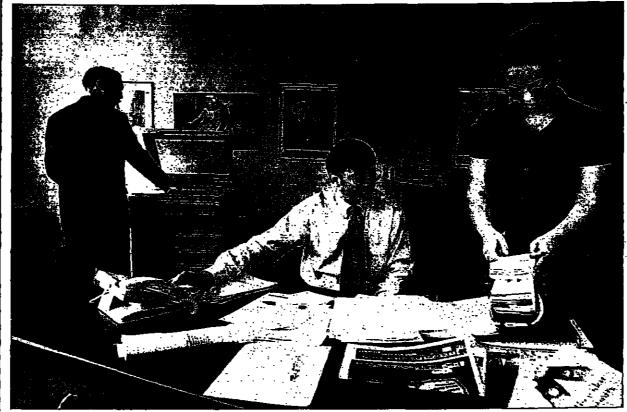
Sir Frederick added: "Where a public official exercising statutory powers acts unreasonably, he acts unlawfully." The Home Secretary should keep an "open mind" over what the future situation may be.

Hindley's lawyers are due to challenge the increase in her sentence in the High Court, Last week, Mr Straw reaffirmed the decision that she should die in iail which was taken by his predecessor, Michael Howard.

A Labour backbencher yesterday challenged the Home Secretary to justify why he had decided Hindley should spend the rest of her life behind bars when other prisoners guilty of "heinous, revolting and repulsive crimes" were released.

Mr Straw told Gordon Prentice, MP for Pendle, that any individual resident in the UK had rights under the European Convention on Human Rights,

Hindley is pressing ahead with her challenge next month to Mr Howard's ruling that her minimum sentence, or tariff, should be raised from 30 years her application for judicial review succeeds in the High Democrats, welcomed the an- Court, Mr Straw will still retain



Legal offices: A barrister (left) and clerks working in the Acre Lane Neighbourhood Chambers Photograph: Rui Xavier

Long arm of law stretches to pastures new

A group of London barristers has moved from the Temple to set up practice in Brixton, forming the first self-styled

neighbourhood chambers in the country. Michael Streeter looks at the changing face of the Bar.

The Acre Lane Neighbourhood Chambers are just 15 minutes away from the traditional, closeted environs of London barristers, but, on a superficial glance at least, seem to inhabit a different world.

A radical team of six lawyers has set up work in open plan offices above a wine bar in one of the capital's most culturally diverse streets in the heart of Brixton.

The idea of the new chambers is to fuse the high professional standards of the Bar with the openness and easy access of a community practice. If successful, it could be the start of a mini-revolution across the country in the way that barristers arrange their work, and could help change their stuffy public image.

Neelim Sultan, one of the founding members of the new chambers, said that the public tended to see barristers as remote. "People's perception of doctors is far more sympathetic," she said.

"By being in the community we are making a statement, we are saying 'You do not have to be in the Temple or have to have a certain image to be a barrister'." At the same time, the practice, which will . combine its advocacy role with campaigning on key issues, wants to ensure that its standards match the rest of the Bar.

The barristers chose Brixton, in south London, because Ms Sultan had already worked and lived in the area, and not for any reason based on the areas' old reputation as a troublespot. "Brixton is not all about guns and robberies, far from it ... We think Brixton is a really repre-

sentative example of an urban locality," she said. In the two months since the barristers opened for business, the reaction from people locally, both inside and outside the legal profession, has been mostly positive. such a service on their doorstep," said Ms Sultan. Some fellow barristers might feel they were being "foolhardy" but the general reaction among colleagues had been supportive.

There are signs that the concept of a neighbourhood chambers could be catching on. The Bar Council has just launched a pilot scheme where 18 sets of chambers around the country will work closely with local advice agencies such as Shelter and the Citizens Advice Burcau. The Government, too, as part of its reform of civil justice, has proposed a Community Legal Service, though critics doubt whether, with no new money available,

this idea will come to much. The prominent barrister Michael Mansfield QC, patron of the new chambers, said he believed the new practice would lead to similar ventures: "I hope this will show the way for others."

Ms Sultan says she looks forward to that day, "I would like to think that one day it will be quite commonplace to have a practice in Brixton. That it would be seen "It can only be a benefit for them to have as quite logical and acceptable."

Hunger strike to go nationwide

Dozens of prisoners will go on a co-ordinated national hunger strike around Britain later this week. They are unhappy with the progress of the Criminal Cases Review Commission which was set up to address miscarriages of justice.

lan Burrell reports.

Winston Silcott never has liked prison food. But his reasons for der in 1952. refusing the offerings of the canteen at HMP Maidstone this in at the rate of five a day. week have nothing to do with

the quality of the cuisine. Like Michael Davis of the M25 Three gang, who will be leaving his tray untouched at Swaleside jail on the Isle of Shappey and the convicted killer Susan May who will be deliberately going without food in Durham prison's female wing, Silcott will be taking part in the first national hunger strike by British prisoners.

More than 60 inmates at 21 prisons are to participate in the action from Thursday, all of them claiming to be victims of injustice.

The protest will pitch the CCRC against a national movement called Action Against Injustice, which believes the government-appointed body is already failing in its task. Supporters of the prisoners will join the hunger strike outside the commission's Birmingham headquarters. The hunger strikers have been told to stop fasting after Saturday.

Chris Moore, of Action against Injustice, said: "If the CCRC carries on like this it is going to take until the next millennium just to deal with the cases already sent in."

He said the composition of the CCRC made it biased against convicted prisoners. "It is headed by a mason. It is a non-elected body and it is heavily-biased with people with prosecution experience." he said.

Nearly eight months after becoming operational, the CCRC has been sent details of 959 alleged miscarriages. Five have so far been referred to the court of appeal.

One was the case of James Hanratty, who was hung 35 years ago for the so-called A6 murder. Also referred for appeal were the case of convicted Hyde Park bomber Danny McNamee, the conviction of a burglar who served five years in the 1960s, and Mahmood Mattan, who was hanged for mur-

Meanwhile new cases come

Sources at the CCRC said that the commission was satisfied with its progress. "We always knew that there were going to be a very busy first couple of years," said one.

Meanwhile, Silcott awaits a decision from the CCRC on his life sentence for the murder of boxer Anthony Smith in 1984.

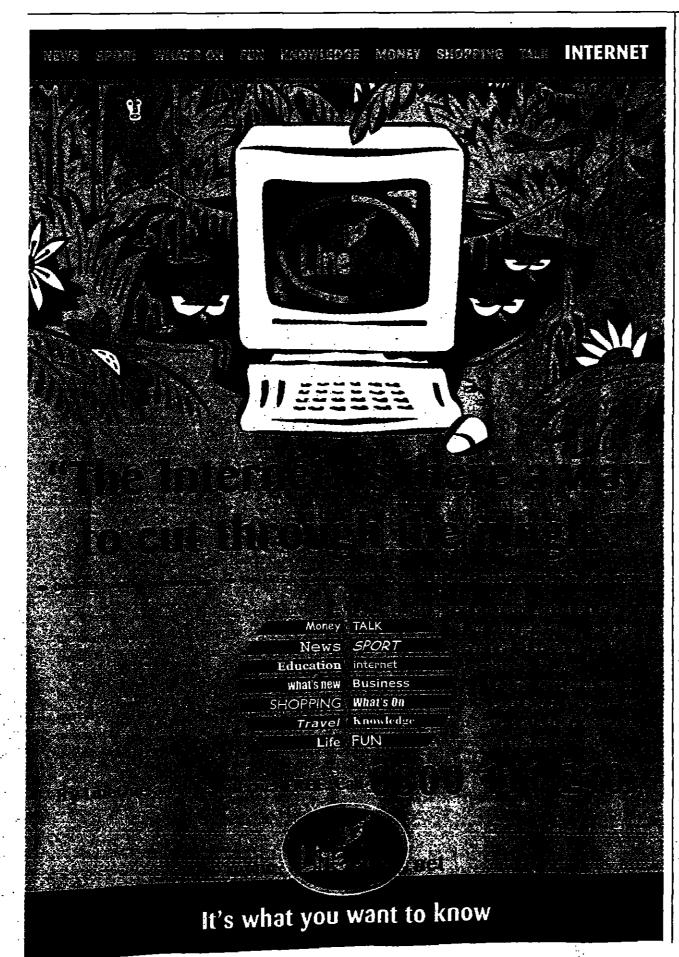
Having been acquitted on appeal of the murder of PC Colin Blakelock, who died in the Broadwater Farm riot in 1985, he maintains that he stabbed Smith in self-defence.

His brother, George, said: "If Winston Silcott was not wrongly convicted for the murder of PC Blakelock, he would not still be in prison today. Most people would not have even heard

Earlier this year the CCRC indicated that it was unlikely to refer the case further but Silcott's lawyers have made another submission which is under consideration.

Also fasting will be two members of the M25 Three -Davis and Raphael Rowe who were convicted of carrying out the murder of a hairdresser and a series of other attacks around the motorway. The pair claim they were denied the right to a fair trial.

Susan May, 52, has always denied she murdered her wealthy aunt, Hilda Marchbank in 1992. Her application for a re-trial was rejected.



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Ticket agency aims to beat touts

A campaign to stop ticket touts ripping off theatregoers and sports fans was launched yesterday. Entertainment industry chiefs said too many customers could pay up to £300 for a ticket, sometimes with only a restricted view of the ballet, opera, pop concert or sporting

Agents and venues who sign up to become members of the Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers, STAR, will guarantee to set out the face value, booking fees, and any conditions attached to tickets when they sell them.

Organisers said customers buying their tickets from a STAR member would be able to purchase with confidence.

The scheme is being backed by a cross-section of the entertainment and sports industries, including the Football Association, All-England Lawn Tennis Club, London theatres and concert promoters.

Anthony Sell, chief executive of the British Tourist Authority and chairman of STAR, said too many visitors felt let down by ticket agents. The BTA would promote STAR members



abroad as a reliable source of tickets, he added. Making money: Ticket touts at work before a sports event at Twickenham Photograph: Jonathan Weaver

MI6 agent faces jail for leaking secrets

An MI6 officer yesterday admitted he had unlawfully disclosed secrets about the security agency. But, says Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, the agent insists that nothing he revealed put officers at risk or damaged national security.

Richard Tomlinson faces up to two years in jail after be became the first MI6 agent to be successfully prosecuted under official secrets legislation for 36

Mr Tomlinson, 34, admitted that last year he had sent a a seven-page synopsis to a publish-

seven chapters of a proposed book about his experiences in the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). Mr Tomlinson joined MI6 in 1991 and was dismissed

Analysis by MI6 staff showed the synopsis disclosed details of the "training, operations, sources and methods" of SIS. Bow Street magistrates' court in London was told.

But in a statement, Mr Tomlinson, who remains in police custody, argued that he had become a victim of the "draconian" Section 1 of the Official Secrets Act 1989 which prevents the disclosure of any information about MI6 by employees. The former agent argued that nothing he intended to publish would have put anyone at risk.

He said: "I wanted to plead hypocrisy, but the draconian nature of the Official Secrets Act makes this impossible - there is no public interest defence. I would have been guilty even if I had disclosed the colour of the carpets in the office."

Colin Gibbs, for the prose-

er in Australia outlining the first mation in the proposed book would have been damaging to the national interest.

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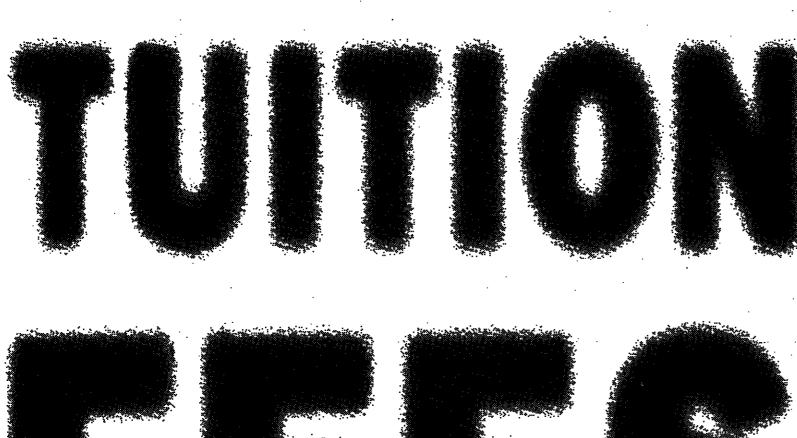
Mr Gibbs said that during his time with the service he was active operationally and had access to a wide range of sensitive information. He is understood to have worked in Moscow, Bosnia, and the Middle East.

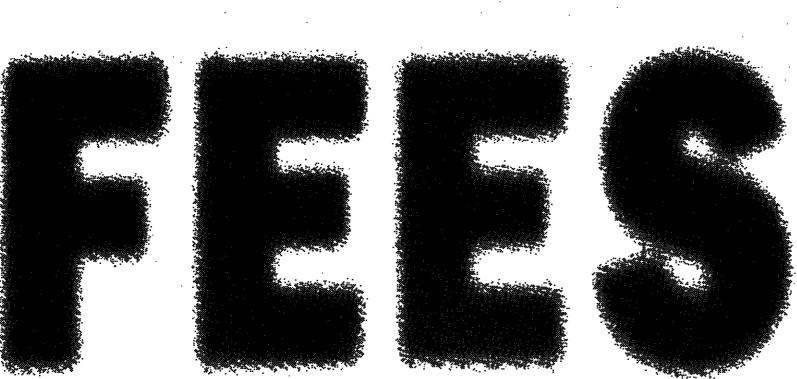
When he was dismissed from from the service in August 1995. He said he no longer felt bound by the Official Secrets Act and that he had no moral obligation to SIS because of the "disgraceful" manner of his dismissal, the court was told.

Earlier this year Tomlinson signed an agreement to terminate a claim for unfair dismissal and to return the information in his possession in exchange for financial support.

However, last spring he went not guilty to expose this to Australia to discuss publication of his book. Mr Tomlinson returned to Britain and was arrested last month.

The case was committed for sentencing at the Old Bailey. He is the first MI6 agent to be prosecuted under official secrets legislation since the Soviet spy cution, argued that the infor- George Blake, 36 years ago.





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DAILY POEM

Pearl At 4am

By Barry MacSweeney

snowdrops under heaven.

Moon afloat, drunken opal shuggy boat in an ocean of planets and stars. Fierce clouds gather over me like a plaid shawL Gone, gone, click of quarter irons to Nenthead, Alston and beyond. I moved my mouth in the darkness of the kitchen, spittle poured wrongfully into the pan fat. in my broken face, reduced to licking the swollen door post. Just a gargoyle. Death upon us like a stalking foot-soldier, high and mighty on the law, bayonet fixed. A sudden glint there, and that's it. Spluttering lard and strange sparks ignite my mind, for I am in love with something I do not know. It is the brusque wind, the nearest falling tumblestones dislodged by the spate, the finest

This final selection from the five poets who have won the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Awards for Artists comes from Barry Mac-Sweeney's The Book of Demons (Bloodaxe, £7.95). In addition to poems inspired by the poet's fight against alcohol addiction, the book reprints MacSweeney's "Pearl" sequence, first published by Equipage (Cambridge) in 1995.

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Jeffrey Archer will be at Harrods on Saturday.

Just in time for Christmas! Lord Archer will be signing copies of his complete short stories in the Book Department, Second Floor, on Saturday 29th November 1997 at 12noon. Published by HarperCollins, price £19.99. If you are unable to attend please telephone on 0181 479 5100 to reserve your signed copy.



9/MILLENNIUM

Church hits the road to show spirit of Millennium

Should the Millennium be an excuse for a party or a time for spiritual renewal? The Church of England is putting on a road show to encourage us to remember the 'reason for the season'. Clare Gamer found out last night that the message may already have got across - to the

It was as if their prayers had been answered. No sooner had a Christian Millennium road show been unveiled at the General Synod, stressing the need 2000 celebrations, than He said it would be so.

Government.

Peter Mandelson, that is. The minister without portfolio churches. delighted the Church by telling Parliament that the New Millennium Experience Company had been told "to focus on spiritual renewal".

In a written reply to the House of Commons, Mr Mandelson said there would also be an emphasis on the "major role Christianity has played in shaping this country and the rest of the world over the past 2,000 years".

Furthermore, the experience would "reflect the multifaith nature of modern British society" and the Millennium company was liaising with church groups and others from

His words are likely to be welcomed by the Church of England and by the Roman Catholic Church.

Members of the clergy have been anxious for some time that spirituality could be overdooked in the razz-matazz that is likely to surround the Millennium for Evangelism of the Methodist celebrations.

Earlier in the day, a fringe meeting at the General Synod all we've been about in the last had been given a taste of the decade of evangelism." He Millennium road show cur- added: "We are unlikely to have rently touring the country.

Churches Together in Eng-

lieves that the Millennium is a golden opportunity to spread the Word, but first they must alert people to the real "reason for the season".

The Rev Stephen Lynas, Archbishops's officer for the Millennium, said: "We have actually got to remind people that the Millennium belongs to us and that it means nothing without some reference to Jesus of Nazareth. It's so basic, but it needs to be done."

The New Start campaign is anxious to "capture the moment of the Millennium" in a way in which the Dome and a boozeup will not.

In order to do so, he hopes that Christians will give a candle to every household in England which will be lit at two for a spiritual message in the minutes to midnight. Then, 30 seconds before midnight, people will read a "Millennium Affirmation", distributed by

> Although the words of the five-line affirmation are not finalised, Mr Lynas said they would be about "looking back at the past, with not only thanksgiving but regret, and grasping hold of the future and making something of it, rather than being a passive victim of time.'

> He said that the public's lighting of candles after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, convinced New Start that it was thinking along the right lines.

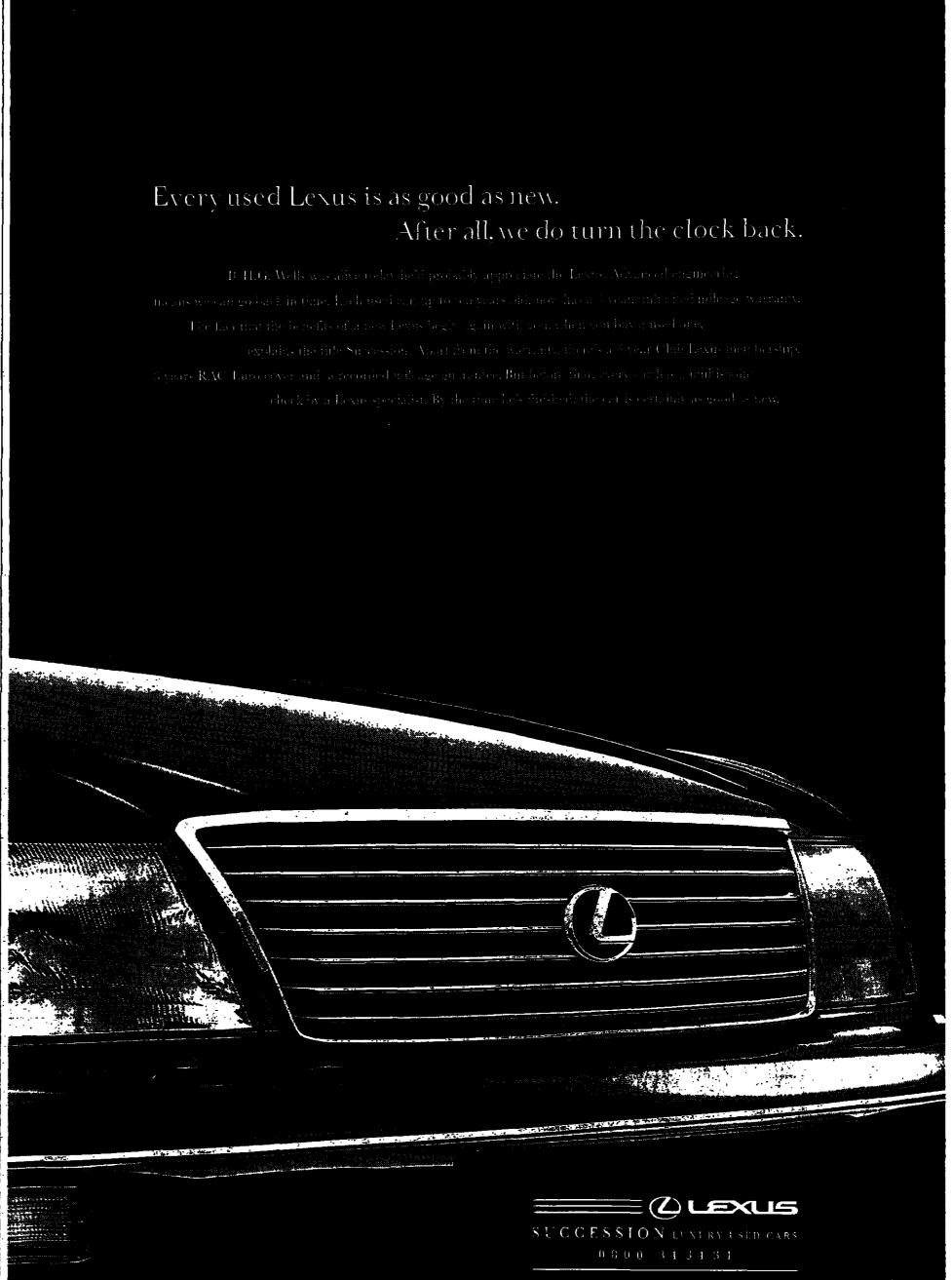
"The Diana effect demonstrated that people will do something spiritual and reflective which doesn't require them to sign a creed or use churchy language."

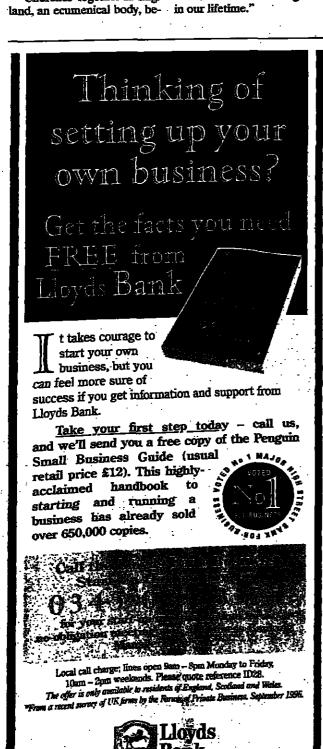
The Road Show has yet to visit Newcastle, Durham, Bristol, Peterborough and London, finishing on 11 December.

Among its speakers is the Rev Brian Hoare, Secretary Church, who describes the Millennum as "the culmination of a better opportunity for pastoral work mission and evangelism



Spiritual gathering: Bishops sitting for the opening session of the General Synod yesterday, where the Millennium road show was unveiled





The people's art that stays locked away

The public should have greater access to the Government's collection of 11,000 works of art, a minister said yesterday. But the promise, made as a "Domesday Book" of government assets was published, will be hard to fulfil, as Fron Abrams discovered.

There are paintings by LS Lowry, Augustus John, Eduardo Paolozzi. Walter Sickert. Stanley Spencer and even Winston Churchill. There are at it, and does not say where bronzes by Jacob Epstein, Elizabeth Frink. Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore, so valuable that the Government will not even put a price on them. But art lovers hoping for a look may ous. The works were scattered have to wait a long time.

And there is more. In addition to the main collection, The Ministry of Defence holds drawings by the architect Robert Adam, and a portrait by Joshua Reynolds.

Yesterday, Alastair Darling,

total numbers are spelled out in include an Epstein sculpture of the new National Asset Register, should be opened up.

"For the first time, the Government has been open about Kitai. what it owns. If that means people ask why they can't see things or if we need them, then that's all to the good," he said.

The whereabouts of most of Pissarro. the works remains hazy, though. A catalogue was promised in

volumes - the 20th Century works - was published only this year. It is not widely available, though the Department of Culture, Media and Sport allowed The Independent to look each item is held.

In her introduction to the tome, Wendy Baron, head of the collection, admitted that the job of cataloguing had been arduacross hundreds of buildings in 300 cities worldwide.

"The naïve optimism of 1981 in relation to the total holdings 709 works of art including two soon evaporated," she wrote. Some of the works can be

tracked down, though; to the offices of ministers. Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culthe Chief Secretary to the Trea- ture, has a total of 11 items from sury, said the collection, whose the collection in his office. They

the conductor Otto Klemperer, an Elisabeth Frink sculpture and a limited edition print by RB

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has replaced portraits in his office with modern Scottish prints and a painting by Lucien

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, has chosen 1981, but the first of four or five an anonymous 17th Century portrait of Richard III along with an 18th Century painting of the Duke of Marlborough. Geoff Hoon, parliamentary secretary in the Lord Chancellor's office. has a Paolozzi in his office. The Northern Ireland Office bas four paintings by John Piper.

Although the public is still denied access to most of these works of art, they issay see some benefit from the sale of other government assets. Mr Darling said departments would be allowed to keep any money they raised between 1998 and 2001 provided it was less than £100m per item. Among those which might be sold were 26 fork lift trucks belonging to the Treasury - used, apparently, for moving loads of computer paper along its endless

Tory defector finds New Labour very agreeable

Peter Temple-Morris yesterday crossed the floor of the Commons to sit with Labour, as William Hague's office denied there would be purge of the wets. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, reports.

Peter Temple-Morris yesterday said he was happier chatting to Labour MPs than he had been among his former colleagues on the Tory benches.

"I think it's much easier for ne with new Labour. Many of could face renewed trouble the new intake are socially very over the Amsterdam Treaty afagreeable," he said, after crossing the floor from the Tory ties tabled a series of benches to sit behind Tony amendments to the Govern-Blair as an Independent One Nation Conservative.

"I used to walk into the

BE THE BEST

ed to dine with. It won't be like that now."

As a veteran Tory wet, with strongly pro-European views, and a commitment to a united Ireland with consent, Mr Temple-Morris may even find himself to left of Mr Blair on some

He resigned from the Tory Party after William Hague removed the whip from him for admitting he had been talking to Labour. Tory leadership sources said: "There is not going to be a purge. Temple-Morris was a one-off."

But the Tory leadership ter Bill Cash and the Euro-scepinto effect.

The Tory front bench may members' dining room and look avoid deepening the split in its around with a sense of desper- ranks by resisting the tempta-

ation to find someone I want- tion to put down a series of amendments, but it is opposing the treaty. The Positive Europeans on the Tory backbench, led by Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, are keeping their powder dry to attack the selection of Tory candidates for the European elections, if the Tory leadership tries to se-

lect a list of Euro-sceptics. Meanwhile, Mr Hague has consolidated his hold over this party by moving into Tory Central Office at Smith Square. Those close to Mr Hague strongly denied reports that Alan Duncan had been sacked as one of his key advisers.

"Alan is a close personal friend, and will continue to be close to the leadership," said a Hague confidant. Mr Hague may seek to reunite the party ment's Bill, putting the treaty by putting his Euro-sceptic stance to a vote of the entire party, but it will be as part of a manifesto package, and will not be put to a vote in isolation.



Lord Hattersley, the unlikely peer, takes his seat

Roy Hattersley, Labour's former deputy leader, slipped easily into the nobility yesterday. Lord Hattersley, as he must now be addressed, swathed in scarlet and ermine, looked born to the aristocracy as he was pro pelled through the 370-year-old ceremony of Introduction in the House of Lords.

For a man to whom mumbo-jumbo is anathema, Roy Sydney George Hattersley, bore the bizarre proceedings with commendable good humour.

Not once did his face crease up in irrita-

tion as, led by the Garter King at Arms; Peter Llewellyn Gwynne-jones, and sandwiched between his two sponsoring peers, Lord Hattersley wove his way in and out of the red

leather benches, doffing his hat and bowing as Now peers will await his maiden speech. It promises to be a daunting occasion for elderly peers if it is to match his Commons debut in 1964, described as "electrifying". A repeat performance might just be too much of a gust

of fresh air for their lordships to endure.

Brown's balancing act on welfare

The tough and tender elements of Labour's "New Welfare State" could be fleshed out further in a Commons statement from Gordon Brown this afternoon, as Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, reports.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's outline statement on next year's Budget, to be delivered for the first time in Parliament today, will restate his determination to create a shift from welfare to work.

But with scare stories about welfare cuts generating unrest among Labour MPs, Mr Brown will need to temper his "iron chancellor" image with assurances about the "fairness and justice" of the Government's long-term approach.

The Prime Minister told the Commons yesterday, in a report on last week's European "Jobs Summit", that he wanted to combine "job creation with a fair and cohesive society".

And David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, told an Institute that if unemployment was to be brought down permanently, business would have to look much harder for new recruits.

Those currently excluded must be included," he said. "Those currently without skills will be able to acquire them, and those who previously became be a part of that change."

victims of change will in future real. But as Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury,

geared to promoting employability. For too many people, getting a job brings little additional benefit to the family income. "

The Commons Social Security Select Committee yesterday delivered an interim report on "Tax and Benefits", in which it looked forward to "some clarity" about the Government's objectives for low-income groups, in and out of work.

While it had much information about the affects of the poverty trap and the unemployment trap, it had few clues as to what the Government planned to do about them.

One other question that has not yet been addressed, was raised yesterday by lain Duncan Smith, the Conservative social security spokesman.

"One of the alleged strengths of the Government's welfare-to-work scheme," he said. "was that it would not afford people a third option between work and welfare, ie. a life on benefits.

"Those under-25s out of work for 26 weeks would have to participate in a training scheme. The logic that unless time limits are imposed, claimants would be less likely to actively seek work, has been of Directors' dinner in London adopted by the Labour government, but only in part. The lone parents taking part in the programme are under no such obligation, irrespective of the age of their children."

If compulsion is introduced for lone parents - or for the disabled - then Labour's smouldering revolt could become

But as that could go against the grain of the "fair and cohesive society" Mr Blair spoke said in a speech on Sunday: of yesterday, that possibility "The welfare system must be would appear remote.

Snooker, rugby and darts tell Tony Blair: treat us like F1

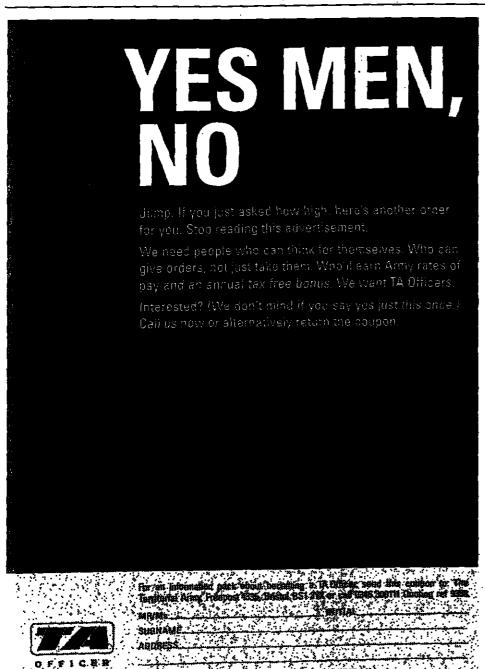
Leaders of national sports including darts, snooker, pool, rugby and cricket will tell Tony Blair today that they should be given the same privilege as Formula One motor racing and be exempted from a European ban on tobacco sponsorship.

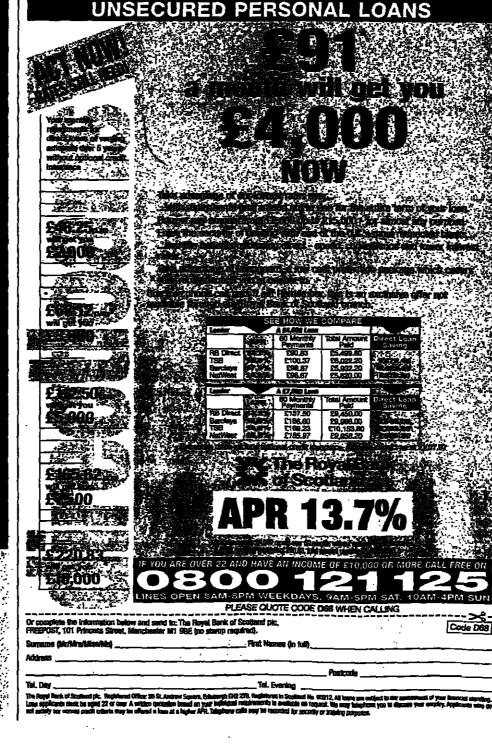
They will be meeting the Prime Minister at Downing Street to underline their protests that their sports have been treated unfairly by being asked to give up tobacco sponsorship within four

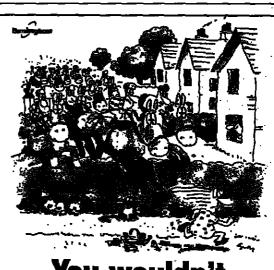
Britain may table a concession to phase out tobacco sponsorship for motor racing in 10 years to avoid wrecking the EU deal when Tessa Jowell, the public health minister, attends a European council on 4 December.

Richard Branson, the Virgin boss, and the Government's adviser on alternative funding, is arguing that the delay should be shorter, but the other sports should be treated the same.

- Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent







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11/ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Planners put the squeeze on cities

Squeezing more homes into urban areas could be the salvation of Britain's cities as well as protecting our countryside from further suburban sprawl. Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent, says there is growing support for that message, but are the ministers listening?

A campaign was launched yesterday to talk up Britain's cities as places for successful, aspiring people to live, work and play.

The Local Government Association, which represents the town balls of England and Wales, wants to highlight urban vibrancy and excellent public transport - and step up the fight against crime, deprivation and squalor.

It has launched an Urban Commission, bringing together bodies as diverse as the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the English Tourist Board to lobby government.

A growing number of planners and developers believe the Government needs to make bold policy changes if it is to revive the cities, and the time has never been riper. New planning policies are needed to get more housing development on small, pocket sites and on derelict, ex-industrial land.

Many believe that at the same time, the availability of greenfield sites for housing in the countryside must be squeezed harder. That would make rural homes, and new houses built beyond the existing edge of towns and cities, more expensive. It will satisfy legions of rural dwellers who want no extra homes in their back field. But it will also make housebuilders search harder for development sites within towns and cities.

A group of urban development enthusiasts has been meeting regularly, with the aim of trying to shift government policy in favour of intensified urban development. They include leading councillors and planners, senior officials from the Government's land regeneration body, English Partnerships, and representatives of pro-urban house building firms.

They are building on a series of studies, commissioned from consultancies by cen-

t as like Fl

tral and local government, into how more homes can be fitted into cities - enhancing their quality rather than overcrowding them. These studies cover the conversion of offices and vacant spaces above shops into flats, stepping up the remaking of houses into flats and maisonettes.

One study, done for the Government Office for London and the London Planning Advisory Committee by planning consultancy Llewelyn Davies, has examined how many new homes could be built in the capital using small, under-used or derelict sites such as temporary car parks - all within 800 metres of each of London's dozens of individual town centres. The idea is that each home would be less than 10 minutes walk from a station, several bus stops, a supermarket and a leisure facility. Householders could manage without a car, or with just one vehicle instead of two.

Based on intensive studies in a few boroughs, planners worked out how many new homes could be provided on such sites across the capital. If semi-detached homes with room for two cars were built, there would be room for 52,000. If each had just one parking space there could be 77,000. And if they were car-free developments, there could be 106,000. The higher density development would be at most three or four stories tall, and they would all have gardens.

Since most of the rapid growth in household numbers forecast over the next 20 years consists of single adults, there is a need to increase the number of flats.

"There is an opportunity for cities to reinvent themselves, cutting car dependence and enhancing their qualities" said Patrick Clark, one of the authors of the report and an associate with Llewelyn Davies. "There is a heck of a lot of potential there."

He enthuses about car pooling schemes, where about six city dwellers share about one car between them as part of a larger collective. On the Continent thousands of people now belong to such schemes.

So far, however, the Government has been wary of moving to curb the supply of greenfield land for housing development. It is still considering what the balance should be between building inside and outside towns and cities in response to a forecast demand for 4.4 million new homes in England between 1991 and 2016.



Health hazard: Rats carry a number of dangerous parasites which can come into contact with humans via household pets

Rise of the rat blamed on water privatisation

Rats are breeding at an alarming rate and posing a hitherto unrecognised level of threat to human health. Kim Sengupta reports that local authorities are now considering legal action against privatised water authorities for allegedly neglecting infestation controls

Cost-cutting which came with privatisation of the water authorities has led to an now considering mounting a test case explosion in number of rats and a signif-

icant rise in health risks to humans, according to pest-control experts.

New medical research has also discovered the rats carry more disease-causing parasites than previously realised, and many of these can be transmitted to people by household pets.

Nearly a million homes in England are suffering from rat infestation, and there has been a 40 per cent rise in the number of homes infested in the last two decades. Much of it is said to stem from decaying sewers and drains.

A number of local authorities are against privatised water companies under this. We feel such action can be brought and kidney failure.

claimed that while some of the companies have been making "fat-cat" payments to executives and directors, they have often

drastically reduced funding for rat control. Yorkshire Water, which has around 15,000 miles of sewers, wants to end its contract with the pest-control department get by one-third, although a small perof the local councils. Instead it plans to

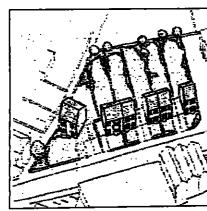
offer the contract to private companies. Pest-control officers believe this is a recipe for major problems in the future. David Bird, environmental services man-

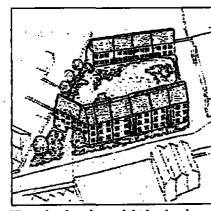
environmental and pest-control laws. It is under environmental and pest-control

Yorkshire Water has denied that the move is is a cost-cutting exercise, and said the company would strive to maintain and improve the quality of service. In 1995, the company reduced its sewer-baiting budcentage of the money was later restored.

According to last night's Granada Television World in Action programme, the health risk is greater than previously recognised. Potentially fatal illnesses inager of Sheffield council, said: "We are clude Weil's disease, Q disease, toxic plasexploring the possibility of legal action over ma, and hantavarius, which can cause liver

Supermarkets have tough lesson for Dales folk





Left: How a pocket site near the centre of Bromley, London, might be developed suburban-style, with six homes and 12 car parking spaces. Right: car-free housing - 32 homes and a communal garden on the same site Source: Liewelyn Davies

school. That is the proposal that has divided folk in a picturesque Dales town, as Jojo Moyes explains.

Opposing plans for two supermarket developments have split a market community in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales.

Schemes submitted by the Co-op and the supermarket chain Booths, would use a 10acre field near the centre of Settle. In return, both are offering to build a much-needed primary school, which would

Say yes to plans for a supermarket ease pressure on the existing school.

would be the least intrusive. "We've traded in the market square for about 130 years. Unfortunately we've got no means of providing any car parking, so we've got a plan to build a new shop adjacent to the square. Ours is to build a supermarket where the existing bowling chub is, and move the bowling club to the field."

The Booths application would site the supermarket, and the primary school, directly on the field. The 10-acre site was given to the town years ago and is now owned by North Yorkshire County Council. It had

been earmarked for a school for years but lost many of its traders, and that the vast Tony Henry, chief executive of Yorkshire resources meant that the council could nev- majority of people in the town would cones its planning application er afford to build it.

But the plans have divided residents, with one protest group threatening to block any construction groups who attempt to take over the field.

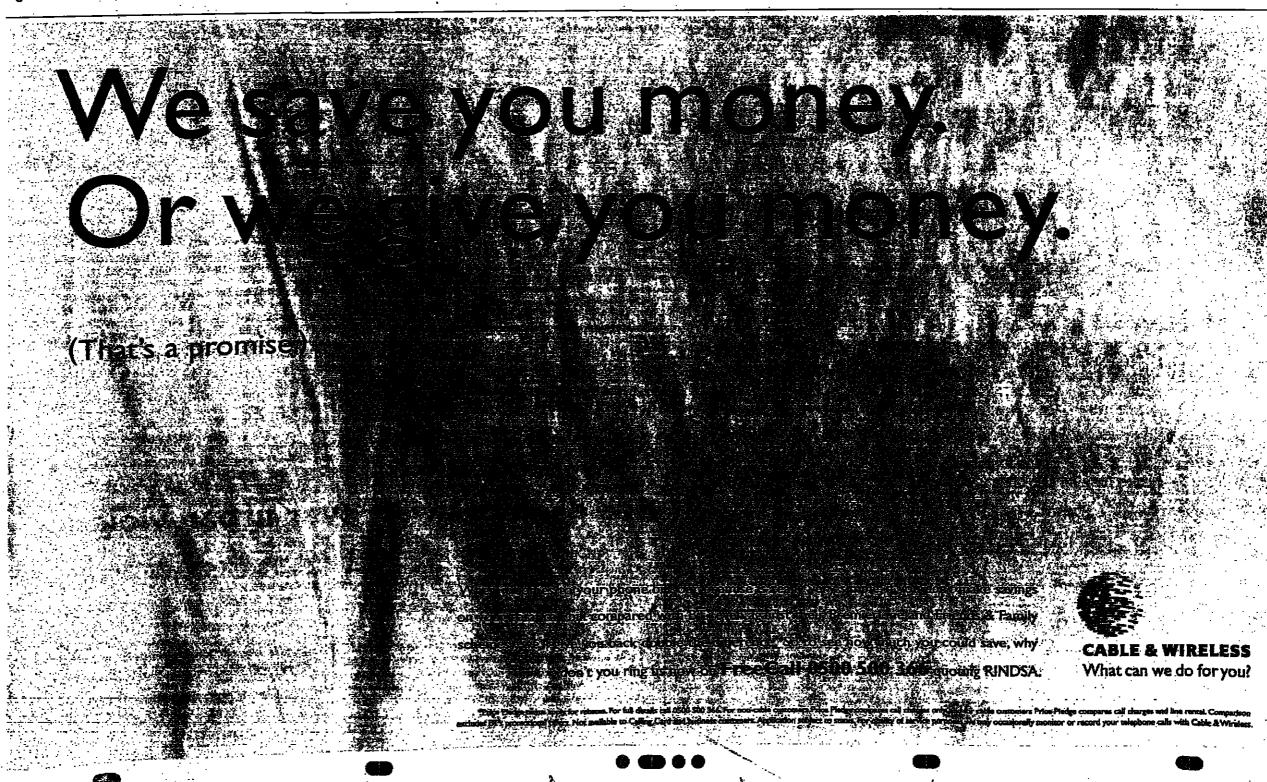
Geoff Knights, a local businessman, says that the council cannot guarantee a school will actually be built. "It's the last greenfield site in Settle," he said yesterday. "All the children play on this playing field. It's a real community space - we even used it to raise enough money to pay for our swim-

ming pool." He said that the town centre had already

der to ensure that it still thrived. If given the opportunity, he added, local businesses would buy it to safeguard its future.

But Ian Parker, head of Settle Primary School, says the existing Victorian building is overcrowded. The new site would provide a much needed nursery unit, as well as "more breathing space". Others say a larger supermarket would be welcome, citing a 16 mile drive to the nearest superstore.

Yesterday both schemes received a second refusal, but will await a planning inquity set for April.



12/EUROPEAN NEWS

Euro-sceptics join battle to save schilling

The Deutschmark and sterling might arguably be worth saving from extinction, but the schilling? Imre Karacs says a petition launched yesterday by Jörg Haider seeks a stay of execution for the Austrian currency.

Euro-sceptics from across the Continent are making a becline for Vienna, Austrians are about to speak out on the subject said to be close to their hearts: the future of their currency. Nowhere in Europe have the people been consulted on Economic and Monetary Union.

All this week, Austrian voters will be able to sign petitions calling for a referendum on monetary union. If 100,000 signatures are collected by the weekend, they are in with a chance.

The petition has been organised by Mr Haider's Freedom Party, a force sworn to hattle alien influences of every kind. Issues such as immigration and Euro-federalism have propelled the Freedom Party to within a whisker of the Social Democrats and conservatives. who are united in government only by their hatred for Mr Haider. At last year's European elections, the Freedom Party got 28 per cent of the vote.

Euro-scepticism has proved a rich seam even in Austria, and Mr Haider intends to mine it for all its worth. His drive to ditch Emu is only the most spectaeular of his high-profile campaigns to put Austria first.

"We'd like monetary union to be postponed for three to five vears, because we think it has neen hadly prepared," explains Mr Haider's deputy, Susanne

Riess-Passer. Like her German counterparts, Ms Riess-Passer denies she is totally opposed to the euro. "We are in favour of a currency union that is wellprepared," she says. "But not one country really fulfils the convergence criteria at the moment, and no one has found a way of dealing with Europe's 18 million unemployed."

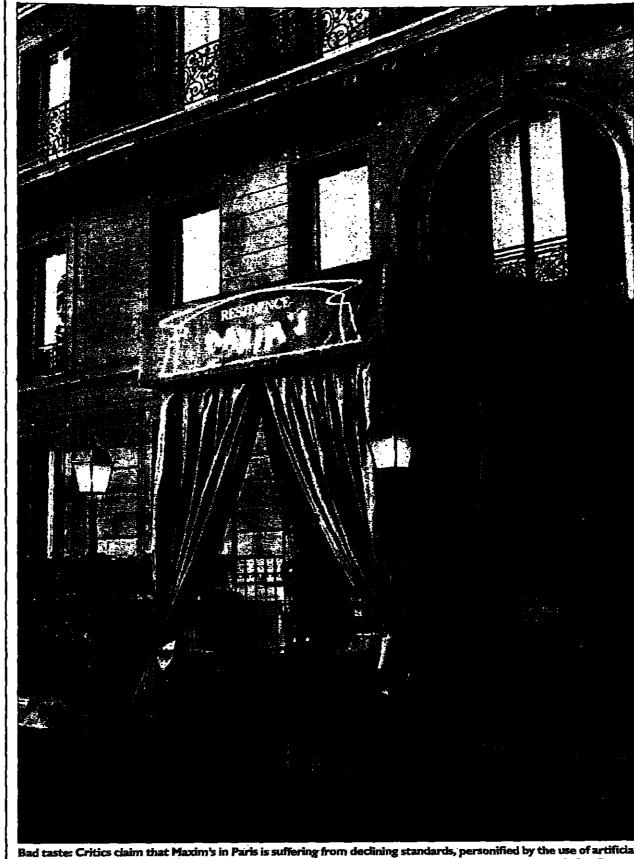
The two parties in the government are euro-enthusiasts, she says, leaving the Freedom Party with no choice but to campaign outside parliament. It is a long shot. According to the Austrian constitution, parliament can - but does not have to - debate the matter if 100,000 signatures are collected.

If it does, the petition's call for a nationwide referendum is certain to be defeated by the governing majority. This is the outcome towards which the Freedom Party is manoeuvring. "The issue has to be discussed," Ms Riess-Passer says. "The government will not be able to ignore it if many people sign the petition.

But the government has every intention of ignoring it, thus serving up a moral victory for the Freedom Party. The additional danger for Euro-enthusiasts is that a massive turnout for the petition could make the call for a referendum

It is unlikely, however, that large enough numbers will visit the town halls where the signatures are being gathered under official supervision. Surveys indicate that too few Austrians can be bothered about saving the Schilling.

According to the latest polls, the proportion of voters strongly opposed to Emu is around 13 per cent. Meanwhile, the proportion of Emu-enthusiasts has soared from 44 to 62 per cent



Bad taste: Critics claim that Maxim's in Paris is suffering from declining standards, personified by the use of artificial flowers. Its owner, Pierre Cardin, has dismissed them as 'fat bellies'

Maxim's decline leaves Cardin with food for thought

It is a long time since Maxim's French cuisine. The restaurant is no longer even mentioned in the Michelin guide. But it has always maintained a certain cachet, partly because of its splendid location, just off the Place de la Concorde, partly because of the political and show-business celebrities who enjoyed being seen there.

An unseemly food-fight has now broken out. On the one side, there is the owner of Maxim's, the couturier Pierre Cardin, who claims that he is starved of the credit he deserves for rescuing a Parisian landmark. On the opposite side, there are the restaurant critics, and many former clients of Maxim's, who protest that Cardin has permitted the old place to sink into astronomically priced mediocrity. Cardin. they allege, is chiefly interested in Maxim's as a trademark, which he can franchise around the world. (He is just about to open a 1,000-seat Maxim's in Shangbai).

The final blow, it would seem, to Maxim's reputation is the decision of the Club des Cent (the club of 100), an exclusive Parisian lunching and dining club, to move its general assembly to another restaurant. Since as long as anyone can remember, the meeting has been held at Maxim's.

The members of the Club des Cent include the former Prime Minister, Pierre Messmer, the former foreign minister, Jean François-Poncet, the celebrated chef, Paul Bocuse, and, embarrassingly, Pierre Cardin himself. To join. you have to be a) famous, b) highly recommended by other members and c) pass a complicated gastronomic quiz. You might, for instance, according to the newspaper Le Figaro, be asked the following: "You

leave Paris at 9am to drive to was at the cutting edge of Bordeaux. At which starred restaurant do you stop for

A new question might be: "What is wrong with Maxim's?" The Gault Millau guide says: "The prices are as chilling as its ambience." Other critics complain that the food is poor and unadventurous and final insult - the flowers on the tables are artificial.

To all this, Mr Cardin responded in an interview in Le Figuro yesterday that he was in the midst of a multi-million pound refit of Maxim's. The Club des Cent, he said, were "marvellous people" but "old people". "Maxim's is tomorrow



Pierre Cardin: Accused of neglecting standards

not yesterday. I don't just want fat bellies in my restaurant. People come here for one of the most beautiful settings in the world, not just to stuff themselves."

Asked what he had done for Maxim's, he went on to confirm his critics' worst suspicions. "The former owners, so-called professionals, did nothing with this name," he said. "I have created [Maxim's] cigars, spectacles, saucepans, mineralwaters, chocolates, watches,

— John Lichfield, Parls

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France puts Muslim militants on trial for bombings that killed eight

Thirty-eight Muslim militants went on trial in Paris yesterday, accused of providing logistical support for a bombing wave in France in which eight people died and more than 170 were injured.

The 38 are accused of helping members in Belgium and France of one of Algeria's most ruthless Islamic rebel groups, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), blamed by police for a series of bomb attacks in France between July and November 1995.

The accused face jail terms of up to 10 years for charges ranging from criminal conspiracy in connection with a terrorist organisation and trafficking in arms and dentity documents, to violations of immigration law. The proceedings began with shouts by some of the accused that they had no hopes of a fair trial. "We have already been condemned," some of them yelled.

Most of those on trial are French-born oung men who are the children of immigrants of North African Arab origin. A few are Frenchmen of European origin who have converted to Islam. One of the accused is a 69-year-old woman of dual Franco-Algerian nationality whose son-in-law is also on trial. Prosecutors say she lent other defendants a portable telephone and the use of her flat.

The bombing wave began on 25 July 1995, with the rush-hour explosion of a gas canister packed with black powder, nails and bolts on a suburban commuter train at the St Michel station in the heart of the Paris Latin Quarter. Eight-died and nearly 100 others were wounded in the blast, which was followed over the next three months by eight further attacks, two of which failed due to defective fuses.

The GIA said it staged the attacks, accusing France of backing the Algerian authorities in a war with Islamic rebels which from GIA leader Djamel Zitouni in Algebegan after Algiers cancelled the 1992 gen-ria. The say the ringleader of the French



Passengers lying injured after the 1995 St Michel train bomb Photograph: Reuters

eral election, which fundamentalist Muslims were poised to win. At least 65,000 people have died in Algeria in the conflict.

Another four people were killed and dozens more injured in a further bombing on the same Paris train line in December 1996, but that attack was not included on the charge-sheet. Few of the accused were in custody be-

were in the Paris criminal court for the first day of the proceedings. The other three charged individuals have never been found by police and are being tried in absentia. The trial is the first to be held in connection with the 1995 bombings, although none of the defendants is accused of direct

fore the trial, and only 35 of the 38 accused

involvement in the attacks. Prosecutors say the accused took orders

support group is Ali Touchent, alias Tarek, 30, who is still sought by police. His deputy, Safe Bourada, 27, is to be questioned from Tuesday on allegations that he recruited young activists for the network.

No Mone

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These included Khaled Kelkal, whose fingerprints were found on a bomb aimed at the high-speed Paris-Lyon train, which had 800 people on board. The bomb failed to go off. Kelkal was shot dead by police in September 1995.

The prosecution says several of the accused were trained by Islamic guerrillas in Afghanistan or Bosnia.

Under the French system, the defendants are not required to plead guilty or not guilty at this stage. But their lawyers have argued unsuccessfully that the trial should be delayed until those who actually placed the bombs are formally identified.

Bus drivers strike over urban violence

in protest against attacks by young people in troubled council estates on the edge of the town. This was the second strike stones at another. of its kind in a French city in a couple of days.

Bus crews in Mulhouse, eastern suburb of the city on Friday with baseball bats and throwing

The attacks follow a pattern of increasing violence in recent Crews in Nancy, also in east- days in the so-called quartiers ern France, stopped work on difficiles - suburbs with large Saturday. Six young men, in-concentrations of immigrants cluding five minors, were for- and unemployment - of severmaily accused yesterday of al large French cities. There

week. In Mulhouse, three bus-France, stopped work yesterday night. They face charges of es have been attacked by gangs "gang violence and theft" after of youths in the last three days.

allegedly menacing one driver A bullet was fired right through one vehicle, smashing two windows and slightly injuring a passenger on Friday night; a tear-gas grenade was thrown at a second bus and a stone at a third. There have been 263 similar incidents in Mulhouse since the start of the year.

Bus crews stopped work in attacking two bus-drivers in a were near-riots in Lille last protest on Sunday night and 150

drivers staged a demonstration in the town yesterday morning.

The town hall promised them new measures to protect buses and their crews, including the hiring of 13 young unemployed people. The youngsters would be trained as "security assistants" by the police, the town hall said. Their job would be to the "install calm and dialogue" in publictransport in the town.

Patriarch's death opens door for dialogue with Castro

Jorge Mas Canosa, the anti-communist leader of the Cuban-American community in the US, died in Miami on Sunday. Phil Davison asks whether this will affect the Cuban exiles' stand towards Castro's regime or US policy towards Havana.

He was Fidel Castro's nemesis. the leader of Cuba's exiles and dedicated to the overthrow of He had hoped to return to his homeland in glory, perhaps to Canosa supporters. become president once Castro had died or been ousted.

On Sunday, Jorge Mas Canosa, founder and chairman of the powerful Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) lobby group, died in Miami without returning to the island he fled as a 21-year-old in 1960. His old Communist enemy, now 71, is, of course, very

penniless and built a construction and communications empire valued in the hundreds of millions of pounds. He had leader towards democracy. Yesbeen ill for almost a year. But terday he called Mas Canosa a his death still stunned the 2 million Cuban exiles in the US, most in the Miami area, and plunged them into mourning.

The question is will Mas Canosa's hard line against Castro prevail among Cuban exiles? Or will the minority moderates gain strength in pressing for dialogue with the Cuban leader?

Mas Canosa's deputy at the CANF, Alberto Hernandez, who was his physician, is likely to head the organisation as interim leader until elections are don't have the English." held next July. But once the mourning is done, Cuban exiles are likely to engage in much soul-searching. Most still support trying to freeze Castro from power but they are increasingly conscious of the fact - symbolised by the fact that Castro has outlived Mas Canosa - that the hard-line policy has been unsuccessful.

loved Mas Canosa. Most cer- ton decided to back the bill. tainly approved of his hard-line stance, aimed at tightening the screws on Castro until he could no longer survive. But a growing minority had criticised his

on trial

Most exiles see no radical shift with the ANF founder Cuban exiles enjoy preferential gone. A recent poll showed treatment in the job market over that while the younger generation was critical of the hard-line as well as lifetime residents. stance on cultural ties with

Cuba, most backed the political hard line, including a continued US embargo. Mas Canosa tried to prevent Cuban musicians from playing here, or even Cuban groups' songs from being played on radio stations. Most younger exiles oppose

Stripped of Mas Canosa's aggressiveness, the CANF may ease its campaign against moderates. Those who have spoken out in favour of dialogue with Castro have been ostracised, or even attacked. A Cuban woman lawyer who kissed Castro on the the island's Communist leader. cheek at a reception in Havana was turned into a pariah by Mas

> With the community's most influential figure gone, the moderate voice is likely to be heard. Embodying that voice is Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, who fought as a revolutionary commander with Castro, was later iailed for 22 years for opposing Communism and came to the US a few years ago.

Despite his long imprisonmuch alive and still in control. ment, Mr Gutierrez Menoyo re-Mas Canosa had arrived turned to Havana two years ago to talk to Castro and now, from Miami, pushes dialogue as the best way to edge the communist dynamic leader but added pointedly that he would have liked to speak to him "in a politically civilised climate".

Mas Canosa's absence may have a major effect in Washington. "He was one of the most influential lobbyists in the country," a friend who asked not to be named said yesterday. "He knew everyone, he spoke good English, he knew the ins and outs on Capitol Hill. Many of the others on the CANF simply

"Without Jorge's pressure, Bill Clinton would never have changed his stance last year on the Helms-Burton bill," he said.

Mr Clinton had vetoed the bill, putting tight restrictions on foreign companies dealing with Cuba, until Cuban MiG fighters shot down two light aircraft, killing four Cuban exiles, over the Florida straits last year. At Some Cuban-Americans Mas Canosa's urging, Mr Clin-

> With Mas Canosa gone, many non-Cubans in Miami predict a backlash against Cuban-Americans. They have become critical of the prevalence of the Spanish language in the Miami area and say immigrants from other nations

> > Obitnary, page 19



A life in exile: The older generation have been fiercely loyal to Jorge Mas Canosa's hard line against Castro, but younger **Cuban-Americans want at** least the chance to see the sland's musicians perform

Photograph: Sylvain Grandadam/Colorific





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Bulgaria in Crisis

Netanyahu faces toughest fight after best ally quits

The surprise resignation of Avigdor Lieberman, the hitherto all-powerful chief of staff of the israeli prime minister, is sending shock-waves through the political establishment. Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem asks if his departure means Mr Netanyahu's days are numbered.

He looks evil or, at best, menacing. A heavyset Russian immigrant with a black beard, full lips and dark, suspicious eyes, he became a symbol of what many Israelis dislike about their government. "A dangerous and detestable man," said one Israeli politician who did not want his name

Now Avigdor Lieberman, 38, the man who made Mr Netanyahu leader of the Likud party and then, against the odds, prime minister of Israel, is gone. On Sunday he surprised the Israeli political world by announcing his resignation as directorgeneral of the prime minister's office.

His departure comes in the wake of the most damaging crisis to hit Mr Netanyahu since he took power and one for which Mr Lieberman was blamed. Last week the Prime Minister, apparently breaking a promise to his ministers, moved to gain control of the nomination of Likud party candidates. This threatened the careers of all the party leaders, including cabinet ministers, who had ever opposed Mr Netanyahu.

the pressure on Saddam

With discussion on Russia's proposals for

solving the stand-off with Iraq stalled in the

UN Security Council, the US is applying

all its diplomatic leverage to prevent any

dilution of the responsibilities of Unscom,

the UN committee set up to oversee the

White House and State Department staff

have decamped for this week's Asia-Pacific

economic summit, the US is using bilater-

al meetings to press home its view that the UN must not bend to Iraqi pressure.

China, which chairs the UN Security Coun-

cil until the end of this week. At a meet-

ing with her Chinese counterpart, Qian

Qichen, the US Secretary of State,

Madeleine Albright, said nothing short of

Iraq's full compliance with UN resolutions,

including inspections of all suspected

The US has paid particular attention to

In Vancouver, where large numbers of

disarming of Iraq.



Lieberman: Steered Netanyahu on road to the premiership of Israel

Mr Lieberman took the blame, as he has so often done in the past. So tightly have he and Mr Netanyahu bonded since they met in 1987 that nobody quite knows where Mr Lieberman ends and Mr Netanyahu begins. Israeli politicians agree Mr Netanyahu will be briefly strengthened by getting rid of his chief henchman, but they wonder if, as in the US when President Nixou fired Bob Haldeman, his chief of staff, Israel's political leadership is not beginning to disintegrate.

Nobody doubts Mr Lieberman was key to the rise of Mr Netanyahu. Born in Kishinev, in Moldova, he emigrated to Is-

weapons facilities, would be acceptable to

Washington. US officials have threatened

to veto any Security Council decision that

Defense Secretary, cited satellite evidence

that Iraq was still trying to evade inspections

and repeated the US view that sanctions can

not be lifted until Iraq opened all its suspect

installations to inspection. Russia has urged

that a timetable be set for lifting sanctions

to offer Iraq "light at the end of the tunnel".

ter the Qian-Albright meeting, Chinese

sources in Vancouver said Peking thought

it important that a channel be kept open

to Iraq, because "without dialogue there

Chinese leader, Jiang Zemin, yesterday.

President Clinton was due to meet the

— Mary Dejevsky, Vancouver

can be no co-operation".

China appears to lean to that view. Af-

Over the weekend, William Cohen, the

would weaken the original resolutions.

rael in 1978 and swiftly gravitated to the far right, belonging to a political chib called Castel at Hebrew University. Along with Tzachi Hanegbi, the present Justice Minister, he was accused of organising attacks on Palestinian students.

Working as a security guard and, at one point, as the bouncer at the university disco. Mr Lieberman became a minor force within the Russian immigrant community. In 1987, when he first met Mr Netanyahu, then Israel's ambassador at the UN, his career began to flourish. He was the campaign manager who got Mr Netanyahu into the Knesset in 1988 and organised his bid for the leadership of Likud in 1993.

Mr Netanyahu had all the skills with the media but Mr Lieberman was the organiser of victory. He became director-general of Likud, reducing its debts by summary firings. He kept his nerve after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, in 1995 and saw Mr Netanyahu just squeak home in the general election. As director-general of the prime minister's office Mr Lieberman was held responsible for encouraging an atmosphere of paranoia and playing on Mr Netanyahu's deeply suspicious nature.

He leaves office swearing loyalty to his boss. But Mr Netanyahu has shown in the past that he has limited time for old supporters. But the Prime Minister, some of whose ministers now believe they must get rid of him before he gets rid of them, is now facing his toughest fight since he took office. He soon may wish that he had Mr Lieberman by his side.

Tibet team to visit Britain

China is sending a high-level delegation from Tibet to London next week as part of an international propaganda offensive timed to coincide with the Hollywood film Seven Years in Tibet, which describes Tibet as an independent country.

The Foreign Office appears to be insisting that any programme it organises must include meetings with Tibet human rights lobby groups and a group of parliamentarians who support the Dalai Lama.

"We do have concerns about human rights in Tibet," said a Foreign Office spokesman. "So we would see this as an opportunity for us to express our concern directly to Raidi."

Raidi - he just has this one name ~ is the deputy Communist Party secretary in Tibet, and the highest ranking Tibetan within the Chinese-run system. He will head the seven-person delegation to Britain, all but two

of whom are ethnic Tibetans. The visit, from 3-5 December, will be the first official delegation from inside Tibet since 1948. Two years later. China invaded Tibet, eventually forcing the Dalai Lama to flee in



Orthodox rabbis in uproar over Israel's Eurovision sex-change diva

In a macho culture like Israel's into the army as an open ho- could attend her live perfor- Army Radio's music depart-- it is surprising. The Israeli representative at the 1998 Eurovision song contest in Birmingham next May will be Dana International, a transsexual who was picked for the role on Sunday night.

Having just failed to win the nomination last year, she will sing a song called "Diva", chosen over 14 other songs by a committee nominated by the Israeli Broadcasting Authority.

Dana International, born Jerusalem Post. Yaron Cohen in Tel Aviv some 25 years ago, comes from a a traditional, working-class Yemenite-Jewish background and sings in Arabic as well as in Hebrew, French and English. Avoiding conscription further by saying that men

mosexual when a teenager, Dana had a sex-change operation in London in 1993. All this is unusual in Israel

derivative or old-fashioned, symbolised by the fact that the Eurovision song contest is still taken seriously. "People in Israel don't

know how to appreciate it - it is a very primitive country show in Tel Aviv. sometimes," she told the

The situation is perplexing for ultra-Orthodox rabbis who denounce ordinary female performers and now find Israel represented by a transsexual. One rabbi confused the issue

Dana was really a man. She says she has faced little harassment, though there are where musical culture is often parts of Jerusalem an Tel Aviv where a woman with bare arms will be spat at.

mances - so long as they knew

year by listeners to one Israeli MTV and the like. The dance radio station, Dana's career genre is just developing in Isknow what drag is, they don't began seven years ago after she rael and Dana has made a was discovered working in a huge impact on it."

Some Israeli commentators see her success as a gimmick. One record reviewer describes Dana's work as "nseudo-provocative garbage". Others say that a gimmick could not have sustained her

career for so long. Danny Peled, manager of

ment, was quoted as saying: "The kids don't really care if she is a boy or a girl - only the adults seem hung up on that. There is a real thirst for dance music among young people in Israel, in large part because Voted female singer of the they are now exposed to it on

> Most of her songs are in Hebrew. However, as a Yemenite, she says: "I like to sing in Arabic. I like the language, I like the music. I like the instruments." Her manager claims that 500,000 cassettes of her music have been sold in Cairo alone.

--- Patrick Cockburn, Jerusalem

Israelis kill three guerrillas in Lebanon

Washington tells China not to ease

later raided suspected guerrilla targets, the ing the clash, the spokesman said. No Is-

"At least three terrorists were killed overnight during military activity of an arlas fired mortars at outposts of the

Israeli soldiers killed three guerrillas in Israeli-allied militia, the South Lebanon south Lebanon yesterday and Israeli planes Army (SLA), and at a Lebanese village durraelis were killed.

On Sunday, at least eight Lebanese civilians were killed in an attack which Israel

moured force near the northern line in the blamed on the Shia Muslim Amal move-Western district of the security zone," an ment on a village in the occupation zone. army spokesman said, referring to the bor- The Amal group denied it was behind the Teresa Poole, Peking der strip occupied by Israel. The guerril- attack on Beit Lif. — Reuters, Jerusalem

The Royal Opera - 2 for I ticket offer Save up to £75

The Independent and independent on Sunday are giving you the opportunity to experience the opera. In association with The Royal Opera we are offering you 2 tickets for the price of I to the Autumn and Winter 1997/98 season. You can choose to see any of three productions - The Merry Widow, The Barber of Seville and Paul Bunyan all showing at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

How to Qualify For each 2 for 1 ticket application simply collect 3 tokens from the Independent and Independent on Sunday (tokens will be printed every day until Friday 28 November) and telephone The Royal Opera House box

4000 or 0171 379 5399 (lines are open between 10am and 7pm)identifying yourself as an Independent reader. If paying by credit card you will be asked to hand in your tokens when you collect your tickets. If paying by cheque please enclose your three tokens (you will be advised of the address when booking). You may apply twice for the offer, collecting 3 tokens per application.

Paul Bunyan

Offer available 10 II 13 15 17 December Ticket Prices: £48.50, £39, £36, £32, £18.50 Paul Bunyan is an American folk hero of gigantic height who became the greatest lumberjack in history, or so legend says. His work sites, and his fights, created geographical wonders like the Grand Canyon and

the Rockies.



are an allegory of the development of virgin North America in the pi-

The Barber of Seville

Offer available on 7 10

12 14 February Ticket prices £75, £66, £62, £57, £33. The Barber of Seville is the first modern comic opera. Rossini was the star composer of an era when opera moved out of aristocratic circles into houlevard theatres, . He believed his audiences would laugh at what they

could recognise. In this opera, Rossini has all the classic classic characters from commedia dell'arte; who have been around from Shakespeare to television sitcom. Rossini's music defines all of them without caricature and makes them available to

The Merry Widow

Offer available 3! December | 2356789 10 January Ticket prices: £65, £58, £56, £51, £30.

Like The Barber of Seville, The Merry Widow is a first. Most operettas are about sex and money, but few as provocatively as Lehar's. The story takes place in embassy circles in turn of the century Paris. It discusses the affairs of a romantic little princedom fit rival Rudolf Rassendyl's Ruritania in The Prisoner of Zenda

(book and operetta are

near contemporaries). Its music is awash with gorgeous tunes - and wonderful dances - evoking middle-European folklore, written with the skill of a Richard Strauss or Puccini (more contemporaries). The very word 'operetta' means escapism - usually. But what's best about

the Widow is its realism. Its heroine has been married before for all the worst reasons - on the rebound from an unhappy affair, and for money, Its hero met the heroine before and rejected her for all the worst reasons family pressure, and money - and then went off on a seriously naughty bender in Paris. He loves her, but can't bring himself to say it. Meanwhile, everyone else in sight is bending over backwards to be unfaithful. It's realistic. it's funny and it's sad. This perfect theatrical combination gave Lehan Paris, London and New

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Widow Photograph:



The in

Tare Days.

The Indepen

'Mother of the Nation' linked to a long litany of horror

Winnie Mandela strode into a Johannesburg hall yesterday, flanked by bodyguards, for a fiveday hearing on the activities of her notorious Mandela United football team. She is linked to eight murders and an array of violent crimes. Mary Braid watched.

Most of the time Winnie Mandela looked nonchalantly at the witnesses through her trademark bejewelled glasses. One murder accusation prompted her to laugh out loud. But as the accounts of killings, assaults and jealous attacks on pregnant love rivals piled up in the sweltering room, packed with the world's press, even the ice-cool Mrs Mandela, in her stylish white-and-powder blue suit, began to look a little ragged.

The allegations were not new. For eight years the parents of missing township teenagers and former members of the "football club" - bodyguards set up by Mrs Mandela in the late 1980s and who terrorised Soweto - have been telling journalists that the "Mother of the Nation", though fêted by the world, was, in fact a crazed, brutal

What made her appearance a world media event yesterday was that her accusers - all 34 - were finally gathered together and for the first time given official recognition though the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the body charged with exposing atrocities from the apartheid era.

The hearing was spiced up by the ANC's apparent abandonment of the woman whose face still adorns the entrance of its Johannesburg headquarters and who is still president of its Women's League. Last week a scathing press article, sanctioned by her former husband, President Nelson Manout to dry.

To cast out the darling of the grass roots is a risky strategy. Next month Mrs Man- Mandela has ignored ANC advice to ask ANC as her ex-husband steps down as from future criminal prosecution. leader. This week may make or break her.

Anyone else faced with allegations like these would quietly retire from public life. As the first five accusers gave evidence yes- he saw Mrs Mandela start beating Stom-



search for truth, not a trial, there was spec- land with his throat slit. Mrs Mandela has ulation that it could, yet, come to that. Mrs denied any part in his murder. dela runs for the deputy leadership of the for amnesty, which would protect her being a police spy, was kept at Mrs Man-

The most dramatic testimony yesterday came from John Morgan, who claimed to have been Mrs Mandela's driver. He said terday in what Archbishop Desmond Tutu, pie Seipei Moeketsi, 14, in her Soweto home

Mr Morgan said the boy, suspected of dela's house for three days and repeatedly assaulted. "When I found him his face was as round as a football," he said, "I tried to help him drink some coffee and feed him some bread."

But the evidence of former associates

dela, suggested she had at last been hung the TRC chairman, emphasised was a a few days before he was found on waste- is often tainted; Mr Morgan was convict- back of a van. Mrs Mandela claimed Lolo ed, like Mrs Mandela, of being involved in Stompie's kidnap - and the most compelling - and moving - evidence came from parents with stories that were the stuff of hor-

ror films, not the proud liberation struggle. Nicodemus Sono, who had considered Mrs Mandela a friend, said that she brought his son Lolo to his house one night in November 1988.

He was lying bleeding and bruised in the

was a spy.

"I have never seen that side of her before," said Mr Sono. "She was very aggressive ... She said she was taking this dog away. The movement would know what to do with him." Mr Sono said he pleaded for his son's life. Lolo was never seen again. Mr Sono said the ANC refused to investigate his son's disappearance.

As Mrs Mandela fanned herself with

Winnie Mandela and her lawyer, Ismal Semanya, at yesterday's hearing in Johannesburg. For the first time all her accusers were gathered together and were for the first time given official recognition by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Photograph: Reuters

paper and the room began to swelter, Nomsa Shabalala accused her of murdering her son and demanded Mrs Mandela give her his remains. She claimed she was terrified of Mrs Mandela, who appeared not to mind "the sight of blood in her house. "We were advised not to approach her," she said. Winnie has bodyguards and ... I was scared that the fate that befell my son would be-

Sex complemented violence. Phunlile Dlamini broke down as she told how Mrs Mandela assaulted her in a fit of jealousy after finding she was pregnant by Shakes (Johannes Tau), a team member with whom Mrs Mandela was also sleeping. Ms Dlamini said Mrs Mandela attacked her with ber fists before ordering team members to beat her. The assault lasted five hours. She said her child - now nine - was mentally handicapped as a result.

Ms Dlamini claimed Mrs Mandela's daughter Zinzi persuaded her mother to stop the assault. The hearing was told Zinzi, sitting behind her mother at the hearing, denied this.

Mrs Mandela is not scheduled to give evidence until Friday. But yesterday everyone wondered if they were witnessing a political beginning or end. Was she finally being drummed out by the party? "I do hope so," said one ANC stalwart in the hall.

That was inside. Outside, her supporters were brandishing placards that read "Injury to Winnie Mandela is injury to South Africa."

The Winnie fan club turn-out was pathetically small. But those that were there were disciples. Rita Koza, of the Soweto branch of the ANC Women's League, said: "We in the struggle understand the context Winnie was working in. She had to be

"It was a time when we said 'Let us fight, let us die and let us kill if necessary'."

Star witness claims he saw boy being stabbed

He was the witness Nelson Mandela fore-

and unreliable a witness. But the diminutive Mr Cebekhula kept his promise to return yesterday if his safety was guaranteed. Tucked away in the from Mrs Mandela and her lawyers, it was only the presence of his self-styled champion, the former Tory MP (and now baroness) Emma Nicholson, in quiet canary yellow, which gave him away.

It is not as if there is a shortage of in- convicted of kidnapping the boy, Mr Ce- Stompie so that he could testify this

But Mr Cebekhulu is expected to be one of this week's star turns. His story was told in Katiza's Journey, a book by the British journalist Fred Bridgland, who was far corner of the witness rows, only yards in the hall covering the hearings. It caused a sensation in South Africa when it was released. In it Mr Cebekhulu claims he saw Mrs Mandela stab Stompie Seipei Moeketsi, 14, in the garden of her Soweto home. A key witness at the trial at which she was

the country by the ANC to save the "Mother of the Nation". The book also claims that President Mandela arranged his disappearance. Lured away, he says, by promises of comfort and education, Mr Cebekhulu ended up in Zambia, where Baroness Nicholson eventually chanced

upon him languishing in a Lusaka jail. Mr Cebekhulu, dismissed as a lunatic by Mrs Mandela, was granted immunity from arrest for the kidnap and assault of

cast would not dare to return to South teresting witnesses-in-waiting. One man, bekhulu disappeared before proceedings week. He is under witness protection and Africa. The President suggested last week under prison guard, nursed a small foot-started. He claims he was spirited out of the TRC refuses to discuss his movements for security reasons

Other witnesses include the brother of Abu Baker Asvat, a doctor murdered during a robbery at his surgery after Stompie's death. Witnesses will say Mrs Mandela asked Dr Asvat, a family friend, to treat Stompie and that he refused, insisting the boy go to hospital. Dr Asvat's killers recently claimed from prison that they were ordered to kill him by Mrs Mandela.



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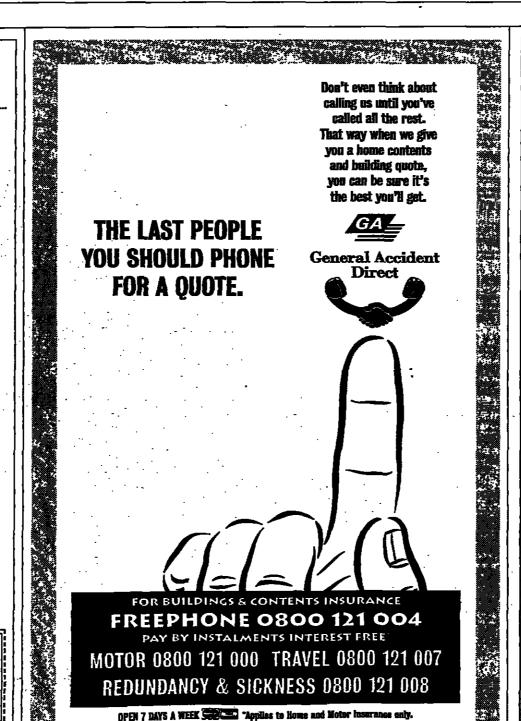
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REVELATIONS

The time: August 1996 The place: Surrey The woman: Ruthie Henshall, star of Chicago

I can remember the moment I finally changed. Somebody wanted me to do a press conference on a Sunday and told me it was really important. I had just one day off. My gut was saying, I don't want to go all the way into London and feel stressed. So I said nicely: "No, I'm not going to do that. I will do it any other day, but not this Sunday. My time is my own." I felt fantastic and wanted to phone everybody with the news!

I had worked continually for 10 years because I was frightened to turn anything down. I didn't know how to say no professionally. I certainly didn't know how to say no in my private life. If someone would ask: "Could I borrow that really lovely designer dress of yours?" I would say yes, but I'd be thinking: "I don't want somebody else to sweat in my favourite dress and I certainly don't want canapés down it." I was making myself powerless.

I had a wonderful fiance, the actor John Gordon Sinclair, and the dreams I'd followed since I was a little girl had all come true. I was doing new shows, playing leads and had choice in my life. Yet I didn't like the way I felt. I was disappointed with myself because I didn't feèl I was living my life for me. I'm normally a very happy person but there was an aching in my soul. I was down because when I wasn't performing and being appreciated by the audience, I felt useless.

So, when I finished my stint on Oliver! I decided to take some time out. I told myself that I had found love and that was more important to me than work. Men hadn't been very important to me, but when I met Gordie I just knew he was the man I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. I remember clearly the moment that I actually fell in love. It was a Sunday.

We had been away from each other for just one day, for a musical we were in toa message on my answering mamissing him and I thought, why am I feeling like this about somebody who I'm just working with? The next day, he turned to me and said: "I miss

you on Sundays, what's going

know but that I felt the same. We had a good cuddle, held each other and talked terribly honestly about everything. It was amazing because normally when you're really attracted to someone you can't be yourself because you're monitoring everything you say and worrying what they will think! It might sound very unexciting, and I don't mean it like that, but suddenly I felt like I had got a pair of old shoes on. It's really bizarre but it just felt so comfortable. It developed slowly and our relationship is just wonderful

Anyway, I promised myself that after Oliver! the next job I took would be something I wanted so desperately that I bit their hand off. Really, I didn't know what I wanted to do

We got on Gordie's Harley and went on a bit of a biking trip. Then I pottered about our home in Surrey and became house proud for the first time, For nine months I did my own thing and I have to admit that I was very, very down.

I needed to learn to be happy with my own company, which is something I wasn't comfortable with and I'm still learning. I had to discover my qualities other than what I do on stage. I did an art course, beginners painting and drawing, at the local Adaptinucation classes. It was tradherentievery week when I did something for me. The scope of the people was incredible - solicitors, microbiologists, store detectives. There was one very spiritual lady and once when I was standing by the sink, washing my palette, I said, "I hate washing up so much." She replied wisely, "I don't. I use it for time to think. Often you can't change what you have to do but you can change your attitude."

Sometimes you don't understand why you're going through a period of being stuck and it's not until afterwards that you realise why you needed that time. I had to find out that although work is really important. what is equally vital is that I'm we'd been rehearsing all week happy off stage and that I give myself time. For 10 years, I did gether. He phoned up and left everything for everybody else but hardly anything for myself. chine. I was devastated about I've tried to get into meditation. I manage it occasionally but I'm still bad at finding time each day when I don't think I should be up to something else. However, I do take a couple of hours

on here?" I confessed that I didn't

a week and feel no guilt about escaping with a couple of books. I've learnt that if you find yourself saying "I ought" or "I should" you're listening to the wrong voices in your head. I've found extra time because I've learnt to say no.

Gordie is very much his own person. I've watched him doing what he wants to do in life and nobody hates him for it - they actually respect him. You know where you stand with him. I'm now finding the same skill and I'm much happier because I'm doing what I want to do rather than what other people expect.

Saying no also means that you're free when something you really want to do comes along. If I had gone with a particular

missed out on my solo singing tour and Chicago - which is a life-changing part for me. I'd always played the ingénue or tragedy but comedy is something I have loved for years. Now I've found the right comic role, and there's also great dancing. I can show people a different side so I'm not pigeonholed. I play a woman who has got her name in the papers and get what she's OK, she had to shoot somebody

job I was offered I would have

Gordie has loved watching the show develop. He's my hardest critic and won't let me I would have had children to

to do it but, you know what,

she's making the best of the sit-

uation. She's a bit like me.

off the book. He told me on the love me rather than being ready opening night how proud he was of me. I can't tell you how but I wanted to; when you're growing up you want your parents' approval and now I really want Gordie's approval because I admire him so much.

Before my nine months in Surrey I couldn't be true to myself. Now I have a clearer. broader vision of everything. I ant to go travelling, get on the always wanted - her own act. Harley Davison and go across America. I want to live there for a while, too. I would love children, although it doesn't seem likely in the next few years. I do feel, however, that now I would make a good mother. Previously,

to nurture them. Ive realised there's more to life than work. that made me feel. I didn't cry No man and no job can make you happy. You have to make yourself happy. I was too busy putting on a front and being Ruthie the performer to notice how sad I was. I was using all these things in my life as a distraction. My ultimate goal now is to feel contented, I don't know if I ever will. I love what I do with family deeply, but they can't single-handedly make me happy -

> that's up to me. Interview by Andrew G Marshall

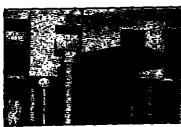
'Chicago' is at the Adelphi Theatre, London WC2 (boxoffice 0171-344 0055).



"He's my hardest critic," says Ruthie Henshall of her fiancé John Gordan Sinclair. 'When you're growing up you want your parents' approval. And now I really want Gordie's'

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Even Santa can't dish up a perfect Christmas

When Operation Yuletide swings into action there will be plenty of blood, sweat and tears, and the children will still not be satisfied.

Diana Appleyard says forget The Perfect Home, rope in Granny, and follow her tips for a breakdown-free Christmas.

"Jingly bells! Jingly bells!" My fouryear-old is already working herself up into a state of hysteria at the very thought of Christmas. She spends all our car journeys bouncing up and down, yelling out "Wudolf, the wednosed weindeer" and "We wish you a Merry Kwismas" etc, etc. I can tell you, it's all getting a little bit wearing. My nine-year-old spends hours in

her bedroom, compiling vast lists for Father Christmas which veer from the distinctly possible - the new Spice Girls album - to the frankly insane, ie a new mountain bike with ninespeed gears and an Arab pony. As it's still only the end of November, I can see I'm going to have to administer Valium by next week and the dawn of the Advent Calendar. By Christmas Eve they will have self-combusted, which will at least save on one lot of

The problem for most parents is that children have annexed Christmas. I can remember a time when Christmas centred around me and what I wanted to do - lots of parties, buying new dresses, getting drunk, belting out Christmas carols and having tender. romantic moments with the One You Love. Now it's one long, frantic childfest. From the moment they break up

for the Christmas holidays, Operation Yuletide swings into action. Trips into heaving cities to spend £20 so they get two seconds on a disgruntled Santa's knee. Excruciating trips to the pantomime, when you pray to God you won't get picked on by Dick Whittington's cat. Christmas Eves spent frantically wrapping the presents you thought would take about two hours and end up taking six. We excelled ourselves one year by buying our eldest daughter a doll's house. The box looked big enough to contain a house, but when we opened it up, just to check, out fell a million pieces. "Jesus wept," said my husband, who'd already consumed the best part of half a bottle of whisky. At three in the morning we were still crouched owlishly over this bloody thing, sticking miniature flowers on to miniature stalks, holding up tiny pieces of plastic saying "What about this bit?"

Then there's all the martyrdom which women do so well. A recent survey by the advertising agency J Walter Thompson shows women more than ever are under pressure to create "The Perfect Lifestyle" for their families at Christmas. When questioned, 80 per cent of men said they looked forward to Christmas as a "good break". Only 35 per cent of omen felt the same. What a surprise.

Most of us go about with a pinched, martyred air at Christmas. That's because we have to do all the shopping, all the cooking, all the arranging. Then there are all those unspeakable magazines which beseech you to create "The Perfect Home" at Christmas. So instead of propping yourself up in front of a film with a bottle of Chardonnay, we're all supposed to be in the kitchen making



marvellous table decorations out of some old pine cones, an orange and yards of red velvet. I can't even tie a bow, and give me a piece of florist's

wire and I'll show you a severe injury. "Of course it's really all for the children," people say, Well, I have had enough. I've had enough of crawling downstairs on Christmas morning with a hangover to find the children diving into huge pillow cases full of presents, while I have to pretend I don't mind that I've only got five, and two are from the dog. I'm fed up with watching Wallace and Gromit when I want to watch the film on the other side. I'm fed up with spending all Christmas Day assembling bikes and toys. I'm fed up with spending hundreds and hundreds of pounds on a

completely ungrateful family, who end up having a massive row because one got Barbie's Bathroom and the other one didn't. So this year I am compiling the "Selfish Parents' Guide to

Christmas". It goes as follows: Feel no shame in palming your children off with whoever will have them. Let then go and stay at Granny's for a week some time over the holidays and do not worry they will exhaust her. Of course they will.

• Go out for a wonderful, expensive meal - and stay the night. Pay the babysitter double to stay on - what the heck This year, on the weekend before, we're going to go to the Feathers at Woodstock, which does a perfect line in grown-up Christmases, ie lots of holly, champagne - and quiet.

 Decorate the house and tree as you want to. Ban all those paper-chains far too common. Decorate the tree with lots of white bows and white lights. Chuck out the pink tinsel, the fairy showing her knickers, and any decorations your children may have made at school.

 Spend as much on yourself as you do on the children.

 Buy the children everything you want them to have, not what they really want, because children have no taste. Book yourself into a health farm for the weekend after Christmas. Bribe grandparents or friends to

have the children. Am considering dragging my hus-

band off to Hoar Cross Hall in Staffordshire, because it has a gym and a bar. Perfect.

 Make your husband cook Christmas dinner. It will be good for his soul. • Shop on your own. Never, never try to shop at Christmas with your children.

 Make granny take them to see. Father Christmas/ the pantomine. Accept in advance that everything will go horribly wrong on Christmas Day and you will cry. I always do. ■ Leave "The Perfect Christmas" to those glossy magazines. They didn't make those decorations, you dummy, they bought them.

 Buy all your food ready-made. Selfmade Christmas puddings taste like hell and you'd have to start new Buy your children lots and lots of videos for Christmas. Stop torturing yourself about whether they're educationally sound. Who cares - it keeps them quiet for hours while you get to eat chocolate and read your new

Merry Christmas.

Now you see them soon y probat

Won't

the Maria lamin or S.

Taking a walk on the wild side of Sicily

Richard Long walks for Art. Across the Sahara. the Himalayas, the Scottish highlands. And now the innocent abroad has tramped through the Mafia lands of Sicily, creating mud drawings and stone sculptures, to become a local hero. jonathan jones falls in step.

We were coming into Palermo from the airport when someone pointed out the place where Giovanni Falcone was blown up by the Mafia in 1992 for his campaign against organised crime, here on the motorway, beneath a looming rocky hillside. Judge Palcone's death has become part of the landscape of Sicily. The nondescript spot where he died has been absorbed into the island's mythology along with The Godfather, and the lake where Persephone was dragged down into the Underworld. This is the blood-soaked Arcadia into which the artist Richard Long walked.

"Richard's walk actually takes him through Corleone," his press agent told me, "but he didn't think that should be mentioned on the press release." Richard Long is an unworldly man. He would never contrive a publicity stunt. It occurred to me that for 30 years. he's been doing what Samuel L Jackson vows to do in Pulp Fiction, just walking the earth having adventures, like in Kung Fu. He looks the part, a tall, gaunt figure with bushy eyebrows and a little round-brimmed sunhat, wearing a check shirt and drainpipe jeans, part preacher, part cowboy. When he works on a sculpture, he wears a bandanna depicting the Kyoto rock garden that expresses his affinity for Zen Buddhism.

"The fact I had a few days spare to make a three-day walk across Sicily, that by chance took me through the epicentre of the Malia world, which is Corleone - that's complete coincidence, Explains Long when I Richard Wilson or Constable meet up with him in Palermo. with his own dangerous journeys, "But since I've come to Sicily, it's good to use my walking energy and water energy in the mud circle and my stone energy."



To the Underworld and back: Richard Long puts the finishing touches to his 'Circle of Life' at Spazio Zero, Palermo

Richard Long's self-effacing art covers vast areas of the planet. He's transformed entire landscapes, including the Sahara, the Himalayas and the Scottish highlands, into works by Richard Long. Yet only by the luckiest of coincidences will anyone travelling in these territories find any trace of his passing. Long is in a tradition of English explorers, laying claim to land on behalf of his distinctively English aesthetic, and at the same time disappearing into the earth he walks on. He told me how he was kidnapped, probably by Kurds, while walking in eastern Turkey and bundled into the back of a truck with animals. He thought he was about to be killed. Instead he was taken to a village in the mountains and fed an enormous meal while the villagers looked on. Then he was dumped at the nearest bus-stop and told never to visit that part of the world again. Long's art replaces

always with the possibility that he won't come back. Thames and Hudson have just published Long's book, A

the painted landscapes of

Walk Across England, but I caught up with him miles away from anything like a launch party, working on an exhibition in a former aircraft hangar on the outskirts of Palermo. "I ticked the box marked 'No Publicity', " he jokes about his reluctance to give interviews. He's not an easy man to get close to and, after following him around for a couple of days, I started to feel like the stray kitten he allowed to clamber about on the sculpture he was making, tolerated and indulged. My first glimpse of the inner Long came when I watched him climb a tree.

> Piazza Marina, a Palermo square lined with crumbling 17th-century palaces. Someone suggested coffee but Long wanted to be moving. We walked across the square and Long stopped underneath a giant, ugly tree. Suddenly he climbed on its thick roots and clambered inside a hollow in the trunk, forgetting everything else in his single-minded enjoyment of nature. Richard Long is a wild man, more at

We'd just finished lunch in

"For me, solitude and independence are very energising," he says, when we are chatting later in an apartment full of Italian street noises whizzing scooters, honking car horns, rows, "It's very relaxing and it's imaginative and it's a great state of mind, despite all the hardships and foot

worship. "There's a whole history of walking," he reminds me, "not only in English culture going back to the Romantic poets - Wordsworth was a great walker, and Coleridge - but in most cultures of the world." Yet no one has done it quite like Richard Long. "I'm proud of the fact that when I made my

'It's about the immediate physical engagement with the world, whether it's the size of a country or the size of a stone'

soreness and wind and rain and all the stuff you get on any walk." The perfect moment on a walk, the revelation he searches for, is that sense of "being one-to-one" with a landscape, "so there's no intermediary stuff like using machines or social company. It's a kind of purity."

home in a landscape than first person to associate walk-

first 10-mile straight line across Exmoor, no one had made a walk like that in the history of culture. I've been able to invent a completely new way to make walking into art."

Long's way of walking belongs to the late Sixties. His generation rejected Pop art and its celebration of the consumer Richard Long is not the society. They chose instead to north coast of Sicily to Agrigo "underground", as he puts it, gento on the south coast with- filled his bottle with water from Across England' published by

was a very imaginative, idealistic time," Long tells me, "that's just a fact. It's that moment in history when the whole language of art could be reinvented, and it was reinvented through Conceptual art, Minimal art, Performance art, Land art." He started making walks when he was a student at St Martin's in 1967 and 1968; these works instantly made sense in the climate of Conceptualism. Yet he'd been doing much the same thing all his life, almost compulsively, before he knew anything about the international avant-garde. It's not insulting Richard Long to call him a naïve artist. "There was whether it's the size of a counnever a point where I became try or the size of a stone." an artist. When I was a young kid, I was always drawing and painting all over my bedroom walls - I used to make mud pies and stuff. Art keeps me in touch with my childhood. I still skim stones across rivers, and the great thing is I've been

able to use it to make art." Only an innocent would plan walk from Palermo on the ing with solitude and nature- and rethink the nature of art. "It out considering that it would a cemetery tap at Piana degli Thames and Hudson, £18.99

Photo: Shobha take him through the Mafia's heartland. Long doesn't do research; he seems to avoid reading guide books or histories of the regions he visits. He tells me he didn't know Sicily had ancient Greek ruins until he got there. "All my work is about making my own history in the landscape," he says. A detailed knowledge of Sicily's labyrinthine past, from the Cyclops' cave to the arrest of Mafia capo di tutti capi Salvatore Riina in Corleone in 1993, might get in the way of confronting the landscape directly. "It's about that immediate physical engagement with the world,

This direct physical engagement with the world, precisely because it frees Long from ready-made expectations. unlocks the poetry of landscape in unsettling ways. One of his heroes is John Cage and, like Cage, he's fascinated by the music of chance. His walk from Palermo to Agrigento tapped all kinds of hisAlbanesi, near the mountain pass where Salvatore Giuliano massacred Communist sympathisers on Mafia orders on May Day, 1947. He was menaced by a pack of wild dogs between here and Corleone. In the notorious Mafia town itself, he was watched by groups of men sitting conspiratorially. The very movement of Long's walk from north to south downwards, from the top to the bottom - conjures a descent into the Underworld that, in ancient myth, lies beneath Sicily.

Long evoked the mouth of the Underworld again when he painted a gaping black circle, 19 metres in diameter, on the floor of Spazio Zero, the art space in Palermo where he currently has an exhibition. Long's gallery works, his stone sculptures and mud drawings, imitate the scale and power of landscape. His black hole on the ground was an abyss, a void, the way to Hades. I watch him as he throws mud from a bucket to cover up this darkness.

"Sicily is promoting culture

as the antidote to its Mafia history," he tells me, "which is great." He's become a hero to Sicilians. He was invited to the island for Palermo's Festival of the Twentieth Century along with Peter Greenaway and Harold Pinter. Their work went down well but Long was undoubtedly the star; we went to a restaurant one night and he was fêted by the management while Pinter waited for a table. Sicilians responded with such intensity because Long's art has direct significance for an island desperate to cleanse the blood from its landscape. He is helping Sicily to exorcise its demons, simply by going for a walk across a landscape that still frightens foreigners and locals alike with stories of kidnappings and murder. For Richard Long, this was just another adventure on his journey. He's been walking all his life and he shows no sign of slowing down, of hanging up his boots and staying at home in Bristol. Perhaps one day he'll just vanish down the road. Exhibition: Spazio Zero, Palermo. Sicily (0039 91 7434341) to 15

Now you see them soon you probably won't

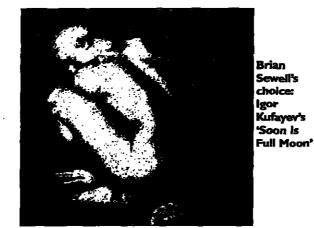
With Prince Charles and Brian Sewell as guest curators, The Mall Galleries can hardly have been aiming for another 'Sensation'. And no, there isn't a YBA in sight. Nor, Andrew Lambirth regrets, much else to tease The Discerning Eye'.

"The Discerning Eye" is usually an open-submission exhibition selected by six eminent individuals: two artists, two critics and two collectors. The idea is that the public uses a discerning eye to compare and contrast the coming artist with the established. By and large, the works are small, and therefore affordable, though this is by no means always the case.

The problem with all large mixed exhibitions is the muddle.

Perhaps the visitor gravitates to the selector whose name he knows best or whose work he most sympathises with, or perhaps admires. This might be Prince Charles or Prian Sewell. Again, it might not. The selector best off in this show is the painter Michael Reynolds. Not only is his own work substantially represented in Brian Sewell's selection, but he has a separate room in which to hang his choice. To find it, enter the Mall Galleries by the front door, and go down the stairs to the right. There you will find the likes of Leonard McComb depicting a group of green and orange ridgy tomatoes; or George Rowlett lovingly lashing on the impasto to capture the East Kent countryside; or Jenny Durrant weaving inven-

> tive patterns of rich colour. Continuing at sub-ground level, the visitor may pass through into the main gallery.



There he or she will encounter the other artist-selector, Ray Richardson. This body of work is altogether more tricksy and sophisticated, wreathed in modernist references and knowing aliusions. Note the faux-naïveté of Simon Laurie, aning the real naïvety of Alfred

crowd-scene take-offs by Jonathan Huxley. Veteran abstract painter Bert Irvin contributes two works that look as fresh and joyful as ever.

Further along, the collector AN Solomons reasserts traditional painterly portraits, stilllives and landscapes that are Wallis. Or the Bill Jacklin competent but largely unin-

spired. The exception is a bright interior landscape by Gus Cummins, a table-top strewn with things: a reel, a cylinder, cubes - all sharp colour-accents and mysterious long shadows.

The other collector is HRH

the Prince of Wales, whose choice inclines rather towards the quirky than the controversial. Light-filled landscapes are evidently a favourite, such as Norman Sayle's brisk watercolour of a house in Menorca. A more evanescent mood is caught by Sarah Armstrong Jones, cousin to the Prince, and a watercolourist of quiet but authoritative atmospheres. By contrast, three brightly-patterned, almost Islamic, paintings by Kate Montgomery stand out on this predominantly well-

behaved and low-key wall. From there to the critic Susan Moore's choice. Harriet Mena Hill, one of our better younger painters, is well-represented with three paintings. Two feature evocative celllike structures resembling the pattern of dry-stone walls and fields seen from the air, all dark and bright. The third is of a triple archway with diamondpatterned floor and holy water stoup. Among Moore's choices are also old favourites such as Leonard Rosoman and Norman Blamey, and the hallucinatory realism of Alan Robb's painting, Auchmithie stones

and bladderwrack. If you follow this route through the exhibition, it ends with a bang - Brian Sewell's choice. Typically, Sewell flouts the rules and has invited six artists to submit. A group of works by each of them is hung with other individual items taken from the public send-in. Thus there are 10 dark Goyaesque paintings by Ansel Krut, and a dozen orangey-brown

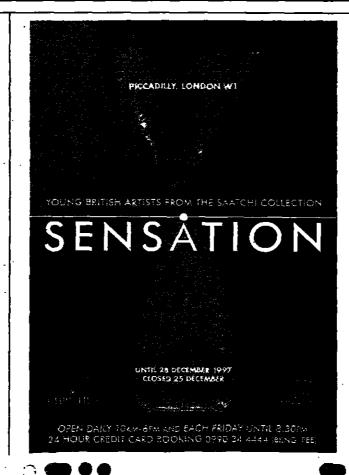
mythic nudes by Igor Kufayev,

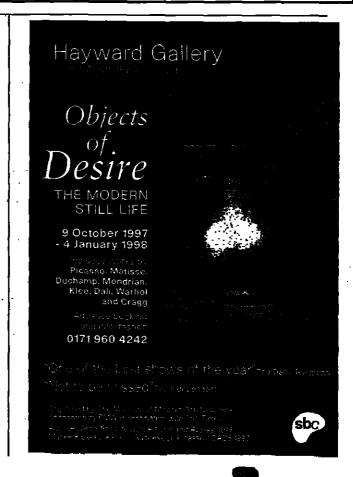
in which Frank Dobson meets Maillol. The sculpture dotted throughout the exhibition is generally appalling, and Sewell's choice is no exception. The best things in this section are undoubtedly the dozen paintings by Peter Spens - landscapes of real accomplishment.

Prince Charles himself has said he found fascinating the fact that so many of the artists he'd chosen had never been heard of nor even been to art school. While not for a moment wishing to deprive them of their 15 minutes of glory, the reason that so many are - and will remain - obscure, is that they will never produce anything to change the course of art. However charming, these exhibits could scarcely be called earth-shattering. Nor inventive. Nor challenging. They are in fact far too easy on the eye.

At The Mall Galleries, London SWI, to 30 Nov







'I have to get this down on paper ... it will be too bloody scary later on'



Cheated out of 30 years or more: Barbara Birchall with her grandchild and the letter she wrote about the horror of unknowingly carrying her own death sentence

This is the letter Barbara Birchall, 56, wrote from her adoptive home in Australia to her family in Lancashire. She had just been told she had mesothelioma, caused by working with blue asbestos more than 30 years previously, and had only a year to live. Last Wednesday, aided by the Oldham solicitol John Pickering, she won £110,000 damages from her erstwhile employers. But her health is sadly

June-July 1997

Dear Family, Hi, this letter will be mixed up more than usual. I daren't let my thoughts connect. It's all happened so fast. Can't believe it, really. Our Michael says he feels like a mushroom kept in the dark, but so do John and I.

and irreversibly failing.

How can I have this big hard nasty inside me all this time and not know. Was all mystery pains this? I thought it was just me. How can a thing creep, grow so silently, wrap itself around you. take control over your lung. Then, when it's stronger than you, and only then, it gives you hard pain that never goes away. to say, I'm in control now.

What a bastard - fresh, gritty, sticky, fluffy blue asbestos sits there all so quietly for around 30 years then says, here I am nasty, strong and deadly.

I have to get this down on paper while my mind is in shock. It will be too bloody scary later on. I need something to fight with to make me strong again. I'm just not ready to give up. I like living, even though we are still in this very bad patch.

John and I are nearly there. We have worked so hard. John has done this wonderful bathroom and kitchen all by himself, made that wonderful garden from the tip. And he is in poor health himself. Thank God I know and feel God inside me. I really need him now. But in this world, bad man wins.

I fell over a piece of string outside of Safeway and thought I had pulled my shoulder; not a mark on me. That was 9 May. Three weeks later the pain just won't move. Funny this, I thought, and went to the doctor. My doctor had moved so I had to find a new one, otherwise maybe I would have gone sooner. But it would have made no difference. Asbestos hides for years, then, wham!

Doctor sent me for X-rays. 19 June, something there, don't know what. Sent for cat-scan for better check, 27 June.

Monday 30 June, 6.30pm. I went to see this lady surgeon. you gave us all those X-rays ear-

Walked into her office, she came in behind us, we all sat down. I got a form to fill in. She said she would explain my catscan, step by step. She put it up under the light and the horror was there before your eyes. I said, "How can you help me?" She gave me a special look and said, gently, "It's too late for you, my dear." I heard John gasp and nearly double over. So I said, "Can't you cut the whole lung away?" She said, "No, my dear, it's come through your ribs. That's why you have pain all the time." So I said, "Cut all the ribs

live without ribs." All I could think of at that moment was thank God I like her. I could not have borne it if I didn't like the person who said that to me. We got up and left the office. Someone was waiting for her outside. I squeezed her hand in ssing. We got to the car and

away." She said, "One cannot

numb. We had to go for a little walk so he could pull himself together to drive us home. I have to tell my children and my parents who are both alive. in their eighties (I come from a

John broke down. I am just

good stock), that I have been cheated out of 30 or more years. That's thanks to you, Turner Brothers. We worked for you in the fluffy blue snow. You never said it got on your lungs and just lay there for 20 to 30 years.

You knew something because

ly on. But no masks, as we had we work our guts out, getting to spit on our fingers to make it stick quick. We were on piecework, remember. I damn you and blue asbestos as it grows like buggery in me.

I went to work at Turner Brothers in my 17th year, 1958. I went there to find work as it was nearer to my home.

By September 1962 I felt I had had enough of working not by fair rules. To send out good work you need good material. that meant good rolls off the work and bad is a big difference. A good roll will run nearly all the way through without a break. I was a quiet girl and a good

worker. The woman on the frames in front of me was a shocking, poor spinner and was getting all the best stuff by bribery. This went on a lot. I felt the bosses knew this but did nothing. This work practice got to me so much I couldn't take it any more. One Thursday morning I went for a fresh job without telling anyone. I got taken on at a catalogue firm. Went into work after lunch, went on to my frames and started work as usual. The leading hand came over and said, "Bill the boss wants to see

you in his office." So off I went. Bill said, "Where the hell have you been?" Then I felt all the rage come pouring out. First I said, "It's all right for you, sat on your arse in this office while all the shit while the shabby workers get the best. All them backhands and foul play, its just not bloody right.

So my boss said, "OK, so give me some names" Laughing, I said, "No names, I don't snitch. You know who it is all right." I could not stop once I got started, waving my arms around and shouting. I left work the next day

as it was Friday. Gritty, sticky blue asbestos. Three months later, I went back for my job, I sat in this empty room waiting for Bill, feeling a fool as the other job I got was only for the Christmas rush, and he knew. When he saw me, he said, "You have a bloody nerve coming here.

What do you want?" I said, "My old job back. I'm the pain I have already is nothone of your best workers and you know it. I need a job and you need me." I won't repeat what he said. I waited for nearly 20 minutes then he came back and said, "OK."

When I started back I was pleased to find all the runners got moved around week to week. That meant all the good work got shared out now. It had helped to stop all that bribery. so he'd listened to me.

Next Bill said he had got some special stuff for me to spin. They had just got a load in from Rhodesia. Blue asbestos, not white, more sticky, much stronger and tougher. I worked

on this a couple of years then left again to have my babies.

Further down the track I went back to work with the blue esbestos on the so-called leisure shift, 5 till 9pm.

We hit a bad spell in our lives so we decided to emigrate to Australia as we couldn't manage any more as things were.

The rest is history. Never

dreamt I would be bringing the blue asbestos with me inside my body to give me pain and horror 30 odd years down the track. Why were we not told about this? Why! Damn you Turner

Brothers and NPLC as you are now called Now I know that I have blue asbestos mesothelioma and have read up all I can on it. The future seems so hopeless sometimes. It scares me so much -

ing to what I can expect. I have just been for 12 treatments of radiotherapy and it's a scary feeling. The side effects and the misery and suffering one gets just from this is not what I expected. But I shall not give up without a fight, even if it takes all the strength I have. I just wish I could take the horror out of my mind as I cannot stop thinking about it and neither can my husband and family.

You also lose some of your friends as they don't know how to act around you and you feel so full of pain and anguish. Not a nice way to live, is it?



DR PHIL HAMMOND

When I was training to be a GP, I changed a patient's tablets to a better brand. Well, they were cheaper. But it was the same generic drug, and the tablets were the same colour and shape. He came back a few days later. "Doctor, those tablets you gave me weren't the same." What do you mean?" "Well. the first lot sank when I threw them down the toilet.

and these ones floated." It came as quite a shock at the time. But I consoled myself that he was a rare eccentric, and that the vast majority of my flock foilowed the doctor's orders. In fact, for chronic illnesses. the best estimate is that only half of all patients take their medicines in sufficient doses for them to be therapeutically effective - even for potentially life-threatening diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, leukaemia and high blood pressure. Indeed, according to one study, failure to take immunosuppressive medication is the commonest cause of kidney transplant failure. The costs of "noncompliance" in unnecessary disease, premature death and a waste of scarce health resources is staggering.

So what's going on? I've got a friend with kidney failure who decided not to go on the waiting-list for a transplant. "I looked into the side-effects of the drugs I'd have to take and decided it wasn't for me. Basically, the mmune system of the rest of your body is completely clobbered to stop this foreign kidney being rejected. You feel like shit and you pick up every bug going. I see people on dialysis whose kidney transplants have failed, and I'm sure no one explained to them how horrible the drugs

would be. It doesn't sufprise

me they don't take them." Mark prefers to have dialysis, but even then he won't accept the whole package. 'I'm supposed to have it three times a week, but sometimes I'll just do it twice. Other patients are on 12 different types of drugs to keep them going - they come in with bloody great carrier bags full of the things, and they look like death. Then the staff do blood tests and say things like: "Oh, your phosphate's really good", as if that's supposed to make up for it. They're so obsessed with their blood tests, they can't see the whole patient.

What's going on? I've got a friend with kidney failure who decided he didn't want a transplant ...

Mark takes only one of the many drugs he's been prescribed ("erythropoetin the expensive one. I tried without it and my haemoglobin went down to seven) and he lets the staff take blood off him only once every three months. He ignores much of his strict diet and often trebles his daily 750ml fluid allowance. "Try limiting yourself to that. It's purgatory." He says he looks and feels better than anyone else in the unit. "You'd think the doctors would be interested in how I manage it, but they just get anxious and bolshie if you don't do it their way. When I first had dialysis, the murse tried to add heparin to the blood to thin it. But I'd read that if you have heparin over a long period it increases your risk of osteoporosis. So I refused it. She got in a flap about how my blood would clog up the machine, so I had to be very firm with her. And did my blood clot? That's because I eat a healthy diet, drink what I want and don't stuff myself with their drugs."

A few years ago, noncompliance meant that you couldn't open the child-proof container (or couldn't find a child to do it for you), you couldn't afford to pick up the prescription, you couldn't remember to take it four times a day on a full stomach but avoiding dairy products or you found the side-effects so unpleasant that you returned apologetically to the doctor as if it was somehow your fault. True, there were always some patients who couldn't be arsed to do what they were told, but usually they wouldn't bother going to the doctor in the first place.

Mark, however, represents a new breed of patient about his treatment options and challenge the established wisdom of medicine from a position of strength. His arguments are part science, part belief and part bloody-mindedness, but it's sad that so many doctors should find this approach irritating and threatening. Why should you do what we tell you? "Doctor knows best" doesn't work any more. "Doctor and patient listen to each other, acknowledge each other's beliefs and feelings, negotiate a plan of action and monitor it together" isn't so catchy, but it's the only way forward.

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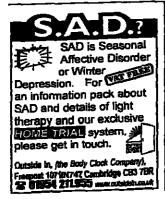
ARRIAGES IDEATHS

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Lice, damned lice and statistics

Herbal remedies are increasingly popular in the treatment of head lice, but are they any more effective, or safer, than the conventional cures, asks Chemill Hicks



Herbal remedies for head lice are fast becoming popular. Oils such as rosemary, tea tree and lavender are catching on among the trendier middle classes, concerned over the possible sideeffects of insecticides found in some

head lice lotions sold over the counter. But some doctors are growing anxious about this trend, pointing out that herbal remedies, too, can have adverse effects.

John Simpson, chair of a national working party on head lice, says that none of the herbal remedies has been tested in clinical trials and that concentrated or essential oils could have toxic side-effects. "Rosemary is already known to trigger uterine contractions and miscarriage," he points out. "Just because something is natural doesn't necessarily mean it is safe. These oils are used in high concentrations, and we don't know enough about

their toxicity." Christine Steward, president of the National Institute of Medical Herbalists, is scathing in her response. "It's a joke, when you consider that they are putting pesticides on children's heads,"

Ms Steward, who favours a mix of rosemary, lavender, eucalyptus and geranium oils for head lice, concedes that essential oils should always be diluted rather than used neat on the

skin because some are irritants. Nor pectan infestation? First, relax: head lice above that absorbed by protected should more powerful oils such as

You have to be careful what you are doing, but used properly the oils are fine," she says. "I know there have



Nit-picking: some people still prefer old-fashioned head lice cures

been no clinical trials, but many of these oils are known to have anti-

Rinsing a child's hair in rosemary tea will also deter lice from crossing from one head to another, she adds. So what should parents do if they sus-

although resistance can build up; two applications are usually needed, one week

apart, to allow for any unhatched lice. But could they be toxic? Among farmers, organophosphates have been linked to symptoms such as chronic fatigue, memory loss and flu-like symptoms such as sweating and dizziness. Research has also shown, rather alarmingly, that if a child is treated with 0.5

per cent malathion lotion - the normal

solution - the amount absorbed is

rarely cause serious health problems,

although they can itch horribly. And

forget about any social stigma associated

For a firm diagnosis, comb wet hair

with a fine-tooth comb, working care-

louse - colour grey-brown, and about

the size of a sesame seed - is unmis-

takable; nits (the dead egg cases, which go white after hatching) are not.

option. Chemical head lice lotions,

available in chemists, contain either

malathion, an organophosphate, car-

baryl (now regarded as a potential hu-

man carcinogen, and available on

prescription only) or pyrethroids such

as permethrin. All these have been

shown to be effective in clinical trials,

There is more than one treatment

ence for either clean or dirty hair.

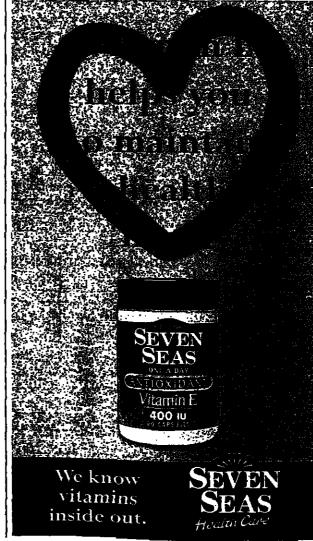
insecticide workers.

However, this is still well below acute toxicity levels, and malathion is quickly metabolised by the liver and exwith poor hygiene: lice have no prefercreted in the urine. Reassuringly, trials on adult volunteers of a single application 10 times normal strength did not cause any adverse effects. fully downwards from the top of the head and round. The presence of a live The risks associated with the rec-

ommended dose of malathion are thought to be very low. More worrying is when parents continually treat their children with insecticides, or use them at intervals of less than a week, which can increase the risk of side-effects. Those who opt for a herbal treatment should dilute it in a carrier oil such as

sunflower or almond oil, rather than use it direct on to the skin. The solution should be rubbed into dry hair and the head towel-wrapped for an hour, before washing out.

A third method of climinating head lice is known to have absolutely no sideeffects. Called "bug busting", it involves using shampoo, conditioner, a special comb - and a fair amount of patience - to break the life cycle of the lice. Although there have been no trials of this method, many have reported success. Treatment packs are available from chemists; or ring Community Hygiene Concern on 0181-341 7167 for more details.



19/OBITUARIES

John Elwyn

John Elwyn Davies (John Ehryn), painter: born Adpar Cardiganshire 20 November 1916; married 1970 Gillian tterworth; died Southampton I3 November

If Kyffin Williams is the most distinguished living painter of the sublimely rugged but largely depopulated mountains of north Wales, it is the work of John Elwyn which most vividly celebrates the gentler hills, and convivial people, of the rural west. . He was a popular painter in

the best sense: his canvases are bought for private homes as often as by public institutions, in both his native country and further afield. They are, for the most part, landscapes inspired by the genius loci of the villages, orchards, lanes, farmyards and chapels of the south Cardiganshire countryside which he knew and loved, despite his long residence in southern England, and portraits of the people from among whom he had sprung. Retrospective, nostalgic even, and often anecdotal and mashamedly emotive, they are also "landscapes of the mind" which seem to evoke the green arcadies in which so many Welsh people, however long they may have been urbanised, have their family roots.

He was born John Elwyn Davies at Emlyn Mill in the smail village of Adpar, a staunchly Welsh-speaking, Nonconformist community consisting mostly of farmers, weavers and craftsmen, across the river Teifi - which is the county boundary hereabouts from the market-town of Newcastle Emlyn in the old county of Carmarthen.

Many of his paintings draw on a happy childhood which shaped him as both man and artist. He never forgot his Welsh, inheriting from his father, who was something of a local poet, a delight in language and story-telling which served him in good stead when, in later life, he was introduced to a circle of Welsh writers who included Glyn Jones, John Ormond and Leslie Norris, whose portraits he painted.

the Carmarthen School of Art, he went on to the West of England College of Art in Bristol. where he was awarded an Exhibition tenable at the Royal College of Art in London. In his first year there he studied architectural drawing, still-life painting and life-drawing, and enrolled in an evening class at the London College of Printing order to learn engraving.

His facility for figure drawing attracted the attention of Gilbert Spencer, the Professor of Painting, who described the young Weishman as one of the est students he had ever had the good fortune to teach. One of the influences on Elwyn at this time was the Euston Road School of painters; he was also deeply impressed by the Cézanne centenary exhibition of 1939.

His studies were interrupted by the outbreak of war later that year when the Royal College moved to the Lake District. Having already registered as a conscientious objector, he was directed to work in forestry above Pont-rhyd-y-fen in the Afan Valley, where he remained for four years, painting a scarred industrial district dominated by the steelworks of Port Talbot in a Neo-Romantic style which owed a good deal to English artists such as Michael Ayrton and Graham Sutherland. It was not until 1947 that he was able to resume his studies at the Royal College.

From 1948 to 1953 Elwyn taught at the College of Art in Portsmouth. His first London exhibition was held at the Paul Alexander Gallery in 1949 and it was at about this time that he began making engravings for Radio Times. Encouraged by Winifred Coombe-Tennant, a wealthy landowner and generous patron of young Welsh artists, to paint what he knew most about, he now returned in his imagination to his halcyon childhood in Cardiganshire, finding in it the subject-matter which he was to spend the rest

of his career exploring. When questioned about his passionate interest in farm, barn, meadow, hedgerow, stone wall, mart and chapel, he would often quote Benjamin Britten: niscent of the work of French "The important things are the



'The important things are the local things': Elwyn's Carmarthenshire Green, 1957

tive patch was as inspirational as Suffolk had been to Constable or Cookham to Stanley

Nevertheless, John Elwyn's vision was universal in its affectionate, though sometimes mischievous evocation of an essentially rural society which seemed timeless in its close links with the seasons and the land, and for this reason his work has sometimes been compared with that of Dylan Thomas, whose poetry prompted several of his paintings.

His sophisticated, sensuous delight in rich tonal values, his technical virtuosity and highly decorative use of broken planes of colour, especially yellow, orange and green, are remipainters like Pierre Bonnard

had admired and emulated as by official bodies, he was recoga student at the Royal College. They went to the making of some of the most lusciously sunlit canvases ever painted of the Welsh countryside.

One of his most frequent images is that of a leafy lane leading to a white-walled farm set among fields of wheat, which (although he was reluctant to comment on what seemed to me its obvious sexual symbolism) I take to be his equivalent of Dylan Thomas's "Fern Hill" of his "green and golden" childhood.

In 1953 Elwyn took up a teaching post at the School of Art in Winchester, where he was to remain until his retirement in 1976. By now, in a post-war Wales slowly awakening to its achievement in the visual arts, After spending two years at local things." For Elwyn, his na- and Edouard Vuillard, which he largely as a result of stimulation

nised as one of the most eminent of contemporary painters, and many honours came his way. He won the Gold Medal for Fine Art at the National Eisteddfod in 1956, held oneman exhibitions at the Leicester Galleries in London and was commissioned to make lithographs by the Curwen Press and to illustrate some of the Shell

Guides to the Countryside. A man of eirenic temperament, John Elwyn remained modest and unassuming about his own work and always ready to praise that of others. His retrospective exhibition at the National Library of Wales in 1996 was the final accolade for a Welsh painter who had practised his art with unswerving devotion and great distinction.

John Harvey

John Hooper Harvey, architectural historian: born London 25 May 1911; FSG 1939: FRSL 1945: FSA 1949; married 1934 Cordelia Story (died 1996; two sons, one daughter); died Frome, Somerset 17 November 1997.

John Harvey was the greatest British historian of Gothic architecture of the 20th century; Gothic, that is, of the Middle Ages not of the 19th-century revival which he, generally speaking, excoriated (although for him the Houses of Parliament were an unequivocal "masterpiece").

His initial training was at the hands of his father, William Harvey (who worked for the Ancient Monuments Board). whom he was to serve as a personal assistant, and the architect Sir Herbert Baker, for whom he manifested genuine affection. He practised only as consultant architect to Winchester College, a post he held from 1947, and as a part-time Investigator for the then Ministry of Public Buildings and Works in 1949, being responsible for the first of the statutory lists of protected buildings in large areas of Surrey (from 1963 to 1970 he held a similar post as Inspector for the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in York). In 1950 he accepted his

only academic appointment, at the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London, as a lecturer in the first course of its kind, rather verbosely described as one on "the Preservation and Restoration of Historical Buildings". He stayed there until 1959.

By then Harvey had already entered the field where he was to acquire a national and international reputation - the study of medieval architecture. Although he produced at least two or three scholarly articles a year he will perhaps be best remembered for his books. The first of these, composed even as the Second World War was coming to an end, was Henry Yevele, a biography of the

Chaucer's England (1944). It was typical of the author that this was written as applied as well as pure history and con-Meic Stephens tained the rather astonishing Harvey: strong views

quote in the Preface: "I am advocating the study of the 14th century as a means of solving the problems of the 20th, and especially the architectural problems." This was his conscious contribution to the postwar Reconstruction debate.

Gothic England (1947) was

followed closely by The Gothic World (1950), itself a result of John Harvey's inveterate appenite for travel, as well as the greater freedom of movement occasioned by peace. Four years later came his greatest work, English Mediaeval Architects: a biographical dictionary down to 1550, written jointly with Arthur Oswald. For two researchers working virtually on their own this was a remarkable achievement, cataloguing and bringing to life some 1,300 hitherto shadowy figures and for ever shattering the myth that the great cathedrals were the product of some undirected communal effort by the lay faithful. Thirty years later a revised edition by Harvey alone identified

The research that underpinned The Cathedrals of Spain (1957) testified to his remarkable linguistic gift. If there was an annus mirabilis in terms of productivity it was 1972, when he produced both The Medieval Architect and The Conservation of Buildings, the latter being one of the first, and still one of the best, philosophical, historical and practical essays on the Architectural Conservation Movement.

up to 400 more architects.

Cathedrals of England and Wales followed in 1974, Medieval Craftsmen in 1975 and The Perpendicular Style in 1978. Perpendicular was not favoured in the 19th century, except in

great architect-contractor of

the last decades, and was especially attacked by Ruskin. For Harvey this was hard to understand, impossible to defend. There are many who will agree with his view that King's College, Cambridge, is the summation of Gothic rather

than its decadent climax. By that stage a new passion had taken over - garden history. This was an interest developed early in his life, but one where he redirected his prodigious mind from the 1970s. Hitherto the discipline had been the study of design, but Harvey focused it on the history of the plants and nurserymen themselves. He is as famous among those who love parks as among those hold cathedrals to be unsurpassable triumphs.

He was a man of strong views, always expressed in a rich and flowing English, for whom, for example, the Renaissance, which overwhelmed his beloved Gothic, was a "catastrophe". He was, however, neither a pofaced critic nor an ideologue. His favourite fictional writer was P.G. Wodehouse, and it was Summer Lightning that he was

reading on his last night. He thoroughly distrusted William Morris, whom he regarded as a quasi-fanatic, and although a lover of Christian architecture was a public sceptic on the faith which sponsored it. In a voluminous correspondence with Alec Clifton-Taylor. of which an edited version was published by the Ancient Monuments Society in 1981, he declared his admiration for the 20th-century Italian engineer Nervi, and came to the unexpected conclusion that the most beautiful building in the world was "the Selimiye mosque at Edirne (Adrianople)", designed by the great Ottoman architect Sinan.

He had an inexhaustible fascination with the railways. unsurprising as he never owned a car and always tried to travel by public transport or by foot. His hatred of killing led him to six months in Wormwood Scrubs, where he was sent as a conscientious objector in the war.

The last 18 months of his life were overshadowed by the death of his wife, Cordelia, who was companion and "proof-reader". as well as wife and mother.

Matthew Saunders

Jorge Mas Canosa

Castro's revolution as a young man without a penny in his pocket and became the Cuban leader's arch-enemy in exile. He built the Miami-based Cuban-American National Foundation into one of the most powerful lobby groups in the United States, strongly influencing successive US presidents' policy towards the Communist Caribbean island.

Critics of the hardline US policy towards Cuba believe Mas Canosa has long been its de facto architect, imposing his will in return for campaign contributions and key Florida

Jorge Mas Canosa fled Fidel votes at election time. Some critics believed he had hoped to become President of Cuba if Castro's Communist system ever collapsed but it seemed unlikely Cubans on the island, after suffering the hardships of the US embargo and Castro's economic mistakes, would ever roll out the red carpet to what they consider the "fat cats" of In 1961 Mas Canosa took

part in the disastrous CIAbacked Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba by Cuban exiles, aimed at overthrowing Castro, and served briefly in the US Army. Since leaving Cuba in 1960, he

had also built up a communications empire which left him with an estimated net worth of between £70m and £160m.

His death is likely to cause major reverberations in the exiled Cuban-American community in and around Miami, increasingly split over whether to follow Mas Canosa's hardline approach to Castro, including support for the longtime total US embargo, or to seek a dialogue which might push the Cuban leader towards

Jorge Mas Canosa was born in the eastern Cuban city of to the US in 1960, never to re-Santiago in 1939, the son of a turn to his homeland. He be-

veterinary surgeon serving in the Cuban army. Concerned by the guerrilla uprising led by the young Fidel Castro in the mid-Fifties, his father sent him to North Carolina in the US to

study. Like many Cubans who believed Castro's promises of greater democracy, Mas Canosa returned to the island as soon as Castro had ousted the dictator Fulgencio Batista in January 1959. But he quickly became disillusioned with the bearded revolutionary's Marxist direction and returned

came a US citizen in the early Eighties.

Settling in Miami, he built

up his savings by washing dishes, selling shoes, delivering milk and unloading cargo ships, at the same time organising an anti-Castro resistance movement. Initially, he bought wepons and supported armed struggle but he later distanced himself from armed anti-Castro groups such as Alpha-66, and pushed political and diplomatic action against the Cuban leader.

Within a decade, he had built up a small construction and communications company

which laid cables and erected telephone poles for the Southern Bell telephone company in Florida. That business eventually became the MasTec company, now headed by his 34-year-old son Jorge Junior and one of the biggest Hispanicowned companies in the US, with widespread interests in Spain and Latin America.

Mas Canosa was the driving force behind Radio Marti, a US-funded radio station, now expanded into television, which beams news into Cuba to give islanders information beyond that available from Castro's state-controlled media. His lob-

bying was instrumental in seeing the anti-Castro Helms-Burton bill passed in Congress and in pressing President Bill Clinton to change his stand and support the bill after four Cuban-Americans in two light aircraft were shot down by Cuban Mig fighters over the Florida straits in February

Aggressive and abrasive, he once challenged the mayor of Miami to a duel, suggesting guns or swords. The mayor defused the situation by proposing water pistols and the duel never took place.

Phil Davison

BIRTHS. MARRIAGES & DEATHS

esman and campaigner:

Jorge Mas Canosa,

November 1997.

born Santiago, Cuba 2l

died Miami, Florida 23

September 1939; married

(two sons, one daughter);

IN MEMORIAM MAXEV: Alex Died 25 November 1991, aged 37. Greatly loved and re-membered always. Kate and Sarah.

Amouncements for Gazette BRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be seen in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London EM 5DL, tale-phoned to 0771-293 2010 or faxed to 1071-293 2010, and are charged at £4.50 a line (VAT extra).

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Birthdays

Mr Bev Bevan, rock musician, 51; Mr Paul Copley, actor, 54; Miss Kathryn Crosby, actress, 64; Sir John Drum-Crosby, actress, 64; Sir John Drummond, writer and broadcaster, 63; Mr Francis Durbridge, author and playwright, 85; Mr John Edwards, former High Commissioner to Botswana, 62; Mrs Maria Pyfe MP, 59; Sir Cosmo Haskard, former Governor of the Falkland Islands, 81; Miss Daisy Hyams, consultant, Tesco plc, 85; Mr Dickie Jeeps, former rugby international, 66; Mr Alan Keen MP, 60; Mr Charles Kennedy MP, 38; Miss Yvome Kenny, operatic soprano, 47; Mr Imran Khan Niazi, cricketer, 45; Dr Manno Koivisto, former President of Finland, 74; Dr Elizabeth Laverof Finland, 74; Dr Elizabeth Laverick, electrical engineer, 72; Lord Mo-Connell, former Social Security
Commissioner, Northern Ireland,
75; Mr Tony Millson, ambassador to
Macedonia, 46; Mr Ricardo Montalban, film actor, 77; Sir Fergus
Montgomery, former MP, 70; Mr
Paul Murphy MP, Minister of State,
Northern Ireland Office, 49; Lord
Nasselv, former MP, 61; Mr Tony Connell, former Social Security Naseby, former MP, 61; Mr Tony Neary, rugby player, 49. Mr Kerry O'Keeffe, cricketer, 48: Lord Richardson of Duntisbourne, former Governor, Bank of England, 82; Mr Richard Seifert, architect, 87; Mr Laurence Shurman, Banking Om-budsman, 67; Lord Weatherill, former Speaker of the House of Commons, 71; Sir Peter Wright, for-mer Director, Birmingham Royal

Anniversaries

Births: Charles Kemble, actor and playwright, 1775; Henry Mayhew, au-thor and journalist, 1812; Andrew Carnegie, industrialist and philanthropist, 1835; Carl Friedrich Benz, automobile ploneer, 1844; Harley

Granville Barker, actor, playwright and critic, 1877; Leonard Sidney Woolf, publisher, 1880. Deaths: Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, 1748; Sir Francis Legatt Chantrey, scuiptor and benefactor, 1841; John Gibson Lockhart, editor and biographer, 1854; David Roberts, painter, 1864; Deme Lilian Mary Baylis, founder of the Old Vic, 1937; Dame Myra Hess, pianist, 1965; Upton Beall Sinclair, novelist, 1968; Yukio Mishima, novelist, 1970; Geoffrey Edward Harvey Grig-son, poet and critic, 1985. On this day: Gilbert and Sullivan's lolanthe was first performed in London, 1882, the battleship HMS Bulwark was blown to pieces in the Medway off Sheerness with the loss of 800 lives, 1914, HMS Barham was sunk by a U-loat off Sollum, with the loss of 868 lives, 1941; the play The Mouse-trap, by Agatha Christie, opened in London, 1952; 12 new local radio stations were authorised by the Gov-ernment, 1969; President Papadopoulos of Greece was deposed after a military coup, and succeed-ed by General Phaidon Gizikis, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Mercurius of Caesarea and St Moses

Lectures British Museum: Jeffrey Spencer, "Latest Research from Tell el-Balamum in the Nile Delta", 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Louise Leates, "Sir Walter Scott and Abbotsford", 1.10pm.

the Martyr.

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC2 Professor Susan Greenfield, "Exploring the Brain -Aizheimer's Disease, 1pm. Exercer University (Parker Moot Room, Armory Building): Professor George Buildey, "Are Stock Prices Excessively Volatile?", 1.10pm.

LAW REPORT: 25 NOVEMBER 1997

Sentence of dismissal from service was too severe

A sentence by a courtmartial of dismissal from Her Majesty's Service for offences which in a civilian court would have merited a small fine, and which did not threaten the trust or discipline within the nder's unit, could not be justified, especially in view of the effect of dismissal from the service on the offender's pension rights.

Regina v Love; Courts-Martial Appeal Court (Lord Justice Smon Brown, Lord Justice Rougier and Mr Justice Astilf) If November 1997

The Courts Martial-Appeal Court allowed Colin Gilbert Love's appeal against a sentence that he be dismissed imposed at a District Court-Martial at Shorncliffe following his pleas of guilty to two charges of sending indecent or obscene material through the post contrary to section 11(2) of the Post Office Act 1952.

sergeant in the Royal Military Police. He had sent the obscene material through the post to a civilian named Copley. He had never met Copley and had given him no indication that he was in the armed forces. Letters, photographs and cartoons of an explicit sexual nature were exchanged between them. The offences had only come to light by accident, when Copley's house was searched in relation to other offences. Gordon Bebb (Warner Goodman

& Streat, Portsmouth) for the Lord Justice Simon Brown

said that the present was the first appeal against a courtfrom Her Majesty's Service martial sentence, the right and be reduced to the ranks, of appeal having only recently been conferred by section 17 of the Armed Forces Act

It was appropriate to make certain observations about the new right of appeal, and how

The appellant was a staff The sentences which could be imposed by a court-martial were, in many instances, strikingly different from those available to Crown Courts. If, as in the present case, an NCO was dismissed, he was also automatically reduced to the ranks and his pension rights would be affected.

> years of a 22-year engagement. At the age of 40 he would have been entitled to an immediate pension. Upon dismissal, however, that pension right became frozen until he was 60, when he would be entitled to 18/22 of the full rate. A rough calculation of his loss of pension rights for the period between his 40th and 60th birthdays was in the region of £168,000.

> > Court-martial sentences were concerned to achieve two things. First, to punish service personnel for the criminality of

appeal, therefore, it seemed that the court was exercising a somewhat hybrid jurisdiction, and that, whilst free and clearly intended by Parliament to correct any injustice which it perceived in a court-martial sentence, it must nevertheless be mindful that those The appellant had served 18 imposing and confirming such sentences were, generally speaking, better placed that the court to assess the seriousness of offending in the context of service life, and to decide upon the particular penalty required to maintain discipline and efficiency in the

With all those considerations in mind, it seemed to the court that the present offence was one of limited seriousness which, if dealt with by the civilian courts, would almost certainly have been disposed of by a modest fine. Realisticaltheir conduct; and second, to iv, there was nothing about the deal with them on a disciplinary case which made it more serithe court should approach it. basis. In that they were unique, our because the appellant was

In the present class of a serving soldier. The present offences, unlike drug offences, barrack-room pilfering or sexual misconduct with or affecting other service personnel, did not threaten the trust and discioline within the appellant's unit. The sentence of dismissal. with the inevitable further consequences which that brought about, could not therefore be justified. The sentences would be quashed, and substituted with fines of £100 on each of the two counts.

One other matter was mentioned by way of footnote. Through the investigation of the offences it had come to light that the appellant was a homosexual Pursuant to the well-known policy that homosexuals were not permitted to serve in the armed forces, once such orientation had been established administrative discharge generally followed. That involved the same loss of pension rights as dismissal from the services.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

Stake out the centre, by all means, but don't call it radical



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARE. LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

Our way of governing inevitably encourages governments to try to be all things to all people. To complain that Tony Blair is preacherman one day and chairman of UK pic the next misunderstands the nature of leadership in a democracy. Hypocrisy, to coin a phrase, is the tribute that elective self-government pays to pluralism.

Yet Mr Blair turns out to be less accomplished in this respect than his Chancellor, who today is presenting his Green Budget. Gordon Brown will be playing simultaneously to galleries at home, in his party and overseas. To date he has been remarkably successful in retaining his "leftwing" credentials (thanks in part to impassioned rhetoric on key themes at party and other conferences), while revelling in the drier-than-dry and "Iron Chancellor" epithets that go down well on the trading floors (we prefer "Iron Laddie", which is what one tabloid cheekily called him yesterday).

Only naive observers would ask the real Gordon Brown to stand up please. Our

question is why he feels the need to harp on his socialist credentials when he and his master have clearly decided that Labour's electoral future lies in keeping the wide middle ground of British politics that it captured so surely in the May election. That, in turn, must entail years more of present policy: no tax increases and strict spend-

It's easy to see why. The Government promised that it would be radical, because that is how Messrs Blair and Brown would like to think of themselves. But they also promised that they would be prudent, because they like to think that about themselves too - and would certainly like others to see them that way. Right now they look very prudent, and very middle ground, and very self-assured in the glow of their middle ground adulation. And the hard reality is, you can't look or feel radical at the same time as you stroke and soothe the middle ground. Radical means change, and change upsets people. Without upsetting someone, some day, somewhere (and that

means people who matter, not rich potential donors), you can't be radical.

Labour won partly because of Gordon Brown's promise to stick with the aggregate spending limits set down by the Tories. Nothing Labour has encountered in power - no previously hidden fiscal fact -justifies departing from it. It is a matter of confidence, which goes far beyond the putative need to keep money-shifters in the City sweet. Of course Labour ministers, let alone backbench MPs, want to spend. But Gordon Drown needs to remind his colleagues today that they have a rendezvous with their party's destiny. Labour may suffer from false historical recollection of profligacy. Denis Healey's efforts at spending control during the Callaghan government should not be forgotten. But New Labour in power is determined to expunge for ever its reputation as a bad manager of the nation's finances. Good for it.

After all, it is still true that many public services could be more effectively and efficiently provided. From the police to defence, from social security to shop inspec-tion, there remains, too often, a painful gap between what the system thinks it is paying for and the service the public gets.

But there are two services where the case for some more in 1998-99 is hard to reject. Savings are there to be made in the way doctors and hospitals operate. But the National Health Service faces short-run difficulties in financing its work, and growing waiting lists for surgery are a ready sign and symbol. Their parallel in schools - growing class sizes - contradicts Labour's ambition to make educational improvement this administration's badge of attainment. Gordon Brown could assent to more - but only on condition the money is found by other ministers.

That in turn means they all put their shoulders to the door outside which public servants are clamouring for more pay. With certain exceptions (such as teaching) the remuneration of public servants is not a barrier to recruitment. By controlling public service pay Gordon Brown gets some

leeway for education and patient care; the rest of his money has to come from other

Including social security. Harriet Harman has a convincing tale to tell about the exigencies of power, including sticking with the cut in lone parent premium assumed in Kenneth Clarke's spending plans. Perhaps because of backbench rumblings, Labour's leadership has so far been mealymouthed. It is precisely in distancing Labour from interest groups (such as the poverty lobby) that its political future lies. This cut is a weighty and necessary symbol of that.

Labour's wants to win the next election. The question for Messrs Brown and Blair ought to be, why? What for? Is this lessthan-radical Government laying the ground for a radical second term (in which case, it can be excused present stringencies), or is it merely a vehicle for consolidation and compromise? Upon the answer turns, not only Labour's approach to spending, but the future for radical politics.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

LETTERS

Food agency

Sir: The possibility that the Food Standards Agency could be prevented from looking at issues of nutrition is a worrying development ("Food lobby jeopardises drive for healthy eating", 24 November).

To rational and concerned citizens, the expected role of our much-needed food watchdog must be to look at the related questions of quality, purity and nutrition and to make representations on our behalf to government and manufacturers alike on these issues.

Just where would the (artificial) line between the issues be drawn? By way of example, many asthma sufferers appear to be allergic to bread made from North American wheat, which is used predominantly in our bread, but not to many types of bread made with European flour. Is this a question of purity, because of the antifungicide added to North American wheat before shipping; is the allergy caused by something which our own bakers add, or by different types of grain; or should we look at the volume of bread in our national diet? Questions of food quality and nutrition inevitably overip – and why should they not be looked at together?

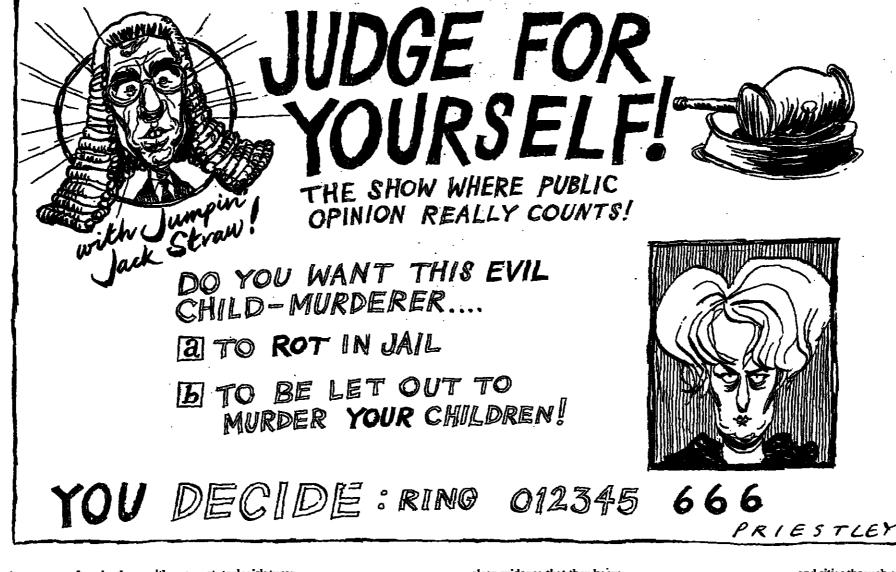
The politicians and their civil servants at the ministries of Health and Agriculture will still have responsibility for blocking or implementing any legislative changes recommended by the FSA - but at least give the new agency a sporting chance to carry out the citizens' watchdog role which our ministerial representatives (of whichever political hue) have sadly failed to deliver.

MAYA KRAUS Director Guildford Natural Health Guildford, Surrey

US welfare system

Sir: Polly Toyobee's interesting analysis of welfare in Wisconsin (24 November) is, as she points out, based on a state with a well-known reputation for liberal attitudes and one where there is as close to full employment as you might find anywhere in the United

The real problem emerges



in other states, often in the South, without a history of sympathetic attitudes to "welfare mums". There, perhaps, the opportunity to cut funds, save money and demonise those on welfare will be uppermost in the minds of those who administer the service. Wisconsin will use the escape hatch, if necessary, of exemption from the five-year limit, but can we be so sure this will happen elsewhere?

Costs will rise dramatically in the short-term (through making available childcare, retraining etc) in order to "save" money later, as people develop the necessary skills to gain work and fend for themselves. However, this reform is occurring at a time of high employment across the United States. Come the economic downturn, the pressure to keep public spending under control will intensify and a different picture could emerge.

with many state legislatures deciding that money could be better spent elsewhere. After all, Charles Murray, one of the Right's leading thinkers, has advocated the building of state orphanages to cater for the offspring of irresponsible

If new "responsible" attitudes cannot be inculcated into absentee fathers and errant females when times are good, I would not be confident that, in the end, a lot will have changed for the better. The possibility exists of a future of Dickensian misery for those at the bottom of the social hierarchy. At the very least, the federal government should monitor, through information technology, this experiment in social engineering. RICHARD de ZOYSA Senior Lecturer Division of Politics

South Bank University

Genetic engineering

Sir: In the present political climate, where we are constantly beseeched not to tolerate bullying - in the workplace, in the home, in the school - and are given endless instructions on how to deal with it when it arises, it is ludicrous to find ourselves being force-fed food we don't want by people on another continent ("Genetically-modified food to hit shelves in the New Year", 20 November).

You say that UK supermarkets "have been forced to accept [genetically-modified foods] by the superior financial muscle of US food producers". Why is such bullying necessary? Good, wholesome, nutritious food will sell on its own merits. The refusal by biotechnology companies to segregate, to identify, to make traceable and to take responsibility for the gene-manipulated foods they are forcing us to swallow, is

clear evidence that they know their produce is inferior and dangerous. GEÖRGE STIDOLPH

Scottish Consumers Association for Natural Food

Sir: For a technology which is purported to be able to feed the world (report, 20 November). genetic engineering has already had some spectacular failures.

Genes have been shown to escape into wild plants and transfer weedkiller resistance; beneficial creatures, such as bees, have been unexpectedly damaged; and engineered bacteria have poisoned soil fungi and plants. We cannot predict all the consequences, so why we being used in an experiment which puts our health at risk? **MARTIN HUGHES-JONES**

Green Party Agriculture Working Group Tiverion, Devon

Cut down on cars

Sir: James Cadle (Letters, 22 November) is wrong to suggest that cars are not a principal element of the environmental crisis, at least as far as Britain is concerned. He makes the common mistake of assuming that the crisis is one of pollution. Certainly, pollution and health issues have been used to dramatise the problem, but

they are secondary issues. A primary issue is the unsustainable consumption of fossil fuels and the resulting global warming. Only cars that run on renewable energy would contribute to the avoidance of that problem.

Second, cars are such inefficient users of space that, to accommodate them and the spread-out development pattern which they lead to, we have wrecked a great deal of the countryside and allowed the destruction of our towns

and cities through congestion. Bus services have been ren-

has been made unpleasant and dangerous. No modifications to car technology can address these problems, and so our objective should be to reduce car usage. ALAN TAYLOR

dered inefficient and walking

London SE24 Beard count

Sir: In support of the Rev Peter Hatton (letters, 13, 19 November), I note from my Concordance that, whilst there are no less than 20 references to beards in the Old Testament, there are none whatsoever in

the New Testament. Perhaps, as a mark of celebration of 2000 years of Christianity, our bewhiskered political and religious leaders could undertake a sponsored shave-in? **BRIAN ROOK** Tring, Henfordshire

War graves in Burma

Sir; R A Cooper (Letters, 20 November) is misinformed about holidays in Burma. The "holidays" are in fact pilgrimages, the prime object of which is to enable relatives and friends of those killed in Burma to visit graves in the war cemeteries. The visits are well-conducted, solemn and moving occasions.

The only people who are given major financial help are war widows on their first visit to their husband's grave. That assistance comes largely from government funds. Everyone else pays their own way so there is no great drain on the Poppy Appeal.

Finally I must point out that the Poppy Appeal is one of the best-run charities in Britain, with a smaller percentage of income going on administration than most other charities. R J FARREN

Horsham, West Sussex

Opera budget

Sir: It is extraordinary for Derek Deane, the artistic director of English National Ballet, to make such strong allegations of waste against the Royal Opera House (20 November) without citing examples of such extravedge of Royal Ballet budgets.

Like ENB, our opera and ballet companies both work to tight budgets and they have accepted salary freezes, redundancies and massive budget cuts in order to break even. They share the same aims: to offer best quality entertainment within available resources. KEITH COOPER

Director of Sales and Broadcasting Royal Opera House London WC2

Yew of little faith

Sir: Is it any wonder that so many churches in this country are in decline when some of the clergy still give public credence to pagan superstitions belonging to the dark ages? Fr Victor Stock, shown in your picture of the topping-out ceremony at the new Sadler's Wells theatre (21 November), should have discarded his piece of yew, taken his cue from the building worker J S Hunda Singh, and put his faith in prayer! PETER BANKS Telford, Shropshire

Ou're hon

The silence of the (off) lamb: a guide to English restaurant etiquette



but very bad at complaining," said restaurateur Enzo Appicella once.

What did he mean by that? Luckily, I was in his presence when he said it, so I could ask him to explain himself.

"Well," he told me, "I know from having run restaurants for many years that the English bate to come to the management with their complaints. They will mutter at the table about how badly cooked, or cold, or inferior, their food is, and they will go on muttering and whingeing, and they will show their displeasure by not coming back but the one thing they will not do is cause a fuss by complaining out loud there and

"Isn't that nice for you?" I said. "Doesn't it avoid involving you in un-

"No, it is not nice for me," he said. "If something is wrong, I want to know

"The English are very good at grumbling, about it. I don't want people to depart in silence and never come back. I want people to complain more! Otherwise I may never discover what is wrong."

I think he is right. I think as a people the British - all of us - are nervous of complaining vociferously. We moan but we do not have the courage of our moaning. We would often rather leave the food untouched and have the plate taken away than make any comment. I think I have only once in my life sent a bottle of wine back, and it was quite justified because it was horribly sour and sharp. The waiter took it away in a flash and brought another one. It tasted exactly the same.

"Fine," I said, nodding him to pour Well, I couldn't send back two bottles

in a row, could I? I'm English, aren't I? The only time I can remember being in a restaurant where complaint became room became friends, united by this

vocal was 10 years ago or more in York, in a very posh restaurant, which I am sure has been wonderful ever since then but which that night served a lamb dish in which the lamb meat was beyond doubt dangerously past its eat-by date. At first you don't believe that you have been served something so poisonous - you think that maybe it is meant to taste like this but I was finally pushed by increasing nausea to complain to the waitress and was amazed to hear a chorus from nearby tables of: "Yes, mine's off too," and "I'm glad somebody else thinks it's off!"

About half the diners, it turned out, had ordered that dish and everyone had been thinking independently that there was something wrong with it. Nobody had liked to complain. But as soon as someone did complain, it opened the floodgates of communal displeasure, and the whole dining

bond of rebellion. I can even remember and they went off into peals of laughter swapping addresses with the couple at the next table, though needless to say we never got in touch again. We are British, af-

(I say that the whole dining room became friends. This is not quite true. There was an elderly man in the corner with his mistress who was, as far as we could tell, a judge, and was clearly very drunk, so drunk that he remained completely unaware of the uprising going on round him, and also oblivious to the way in which everyone was listening to his conversation with the equally plastered

At one point one of us dared to ask her her main course was all right. She blinked and said it was some of the best chicken she had ever eaten. The judge said: "I thought you were having steak, dear." She said: "Am I? Oh, yes, so I am!" and retreated back into their own private drunken world ...)

Needless to say, this accident-prone meal is fondly remembered by my wife and myself where other better meals have faded, in the same way that you remember that picnic with the wasps and the ants more clearly than all the others, and in the same way that we British remember the ignominious débâcle of Dunkirk more than almost any other event in the Second World War.

I have suddenly remembered that this article was going to be a cold, hard analysis of my current complaints, which are about waterproof hats and mobile phones. Tomorrow in a very unEnglish way I shail tell you how I became an ex-Orange mobile phone user, and how I wish I had an address to send my Driza-Bone bat

Why the Asian model has gone off the road



COYLE ON YAMAICHI SECURITIES

The collapse of Yamaichi Securities, one of Japan's biggest stockbrokers, is anything but a surprise. Seriously ailing for at least three years and loss-making since 1991, its official bankruptcy is a merciful release. The Japanese authorities should have put it out of its misery long ago. The fact that they did not, and indeed allowed it to disguise the extent of its financial difficulties for so long, justifies a damning verdict of Asianstyle capitalism.

The same verdict applies to South Korea, now reluctantly applying to the International Monetary Fund for an emergency loan because the majority of its big banks are technically bankrupt. The government has used the financial system to channel funds to the huge industrial conglomerates, the chaebol, which used the apparently limitless supply of cheap funds to expand into frankly unprofitable activities.

Throughout much of Asia, banks and finance houses have over the decades provided the ammunition for big companies' conquest of an ever-increasing share of world markets. It has long been fashionable in some quarters in the West to praise extravagantly the long-termism of the Japanese financial system, in contrast to the disloyalty and greed supposedly displayed by shareholders in Western companies in their hunt for a quick profit. After all, the financial support from banks that have made long-term loans and bought shares in their client companies accounts, for example, for the dominant Japanese and, lately, Korean position in the manufacture of cars and consumer electronics. This achievement, the argument goes, could never have been achieved if the corporations had been forced to deliver a shortterm pröfit to shareholders.

But the new crisis should finally lay to rest this unquestioning worship of Asian values. The long-term relationships between banks and corporate borrowers have turned out to be a cover for cronyism at best, crime and corruption at worst. These evils have been a common factor in each of the countries afflicted by financial crisis this year: from tiger cubs Malaysia and Thailand, through Indonesia, to industrial giants Korea and Japan.

Anglo-Saxon market values make for a more resilient economy. To see this, go back to the roots of Japan's troubles in the late 1980s. The boom in property and share prices gave Yamaichi and other financial institutions record profits in 1989. The bursting of the bubble plunged them into loss within a couple of years as the massive loans they had made, secured on shares and real estate, turned bad.

A swathe of lenders specialising in property should have gone under almost immediately, but it was not until the end of 1994 that two credit unions collapsed. Only a handful of other small banks and brokers have been closed and taken over since. It coming into its own.

is only now that analysts see in yesterday's announcement about Yamaichi Securities a signal that Japan's Ministry of Finance will undertake brutal surgery to restore the financial system to health.

Contrast the much tougher approach the American authorities took to the "savings and loan" crisis. This too had its roots in excessive lending secured on the fragile base of soaring property prices in the late Eighties. It also involved widespread fraud and cover-ups by these local banks. The US banking regulators were not in a position to resist market pressures, and promptly set up the Resolution Trust Company, a taxpaverfunded body, to cover the bad debts and swiftly closed the duff savings and loans. In the end it cost under \$20bn in tax dollars, far less than initial fears. And the US economy has being going from strength to strength for at least the past four years.

By preserving the network of long-term financial relationships, rather than taking similar brutal and early action, the Japanese government is going to have to ask its taxpayers for a much larger amount to rescue the country's financial system. According to Steven Bell, head of research at the investment bank Deutsche Morgan Grenfell: "The US institutions and the US economy are now very healthy, whereas the Japanese economy has been the most disappointing performer during the 1990s." And Keith Skeoch, director of research at HSBC Investment Bank, says: "The Japanese model has very little to recommend it."

Although there is no sign of an end to its recession, it would be a mistake to overdo the gloom about Japan. While the financial system has not reformed during the past decade, the big corporations have steadily extricated themselves from the banks' fatal embrace. Japanese multinationals, like their American or European counterparts, now meet their financial needs from the global capital markets. Japan is still a powerful and rich economy with a huge industrial base, and the future of companies such as Nissan and Sony is not under threat.

The outlook for South Korean industry is bleaker. Its conglomerates are likely to be severely damaged by the withdrawal of bank credit, as the IMF restructures the country's financial system. Korean companies will have to pull in their horns. The same goes for the smaller East Asian countries. where business activity is similarly dependent on having contacts in the banks. But whatever the various prospects, the real lesson of the Asian crisis is that the vaunted system of long-term links between banks and business, so much admired by Western critics of home-grown capitalism, has failed.

tem much admired for its long-termism. German banks are also famed for backing the companies which they support financially through thick and thin. Like their Japanese equivalents, they too have been able to exploit unpublished hidden financial reserves to disguise the true costs of doing so.

This has been fine as long as good times have followed bad. But rigid long-term structures are a burden, not a benefit, at times of fundamental economic change. And change, above all, characterises the late 20th century. Free markets, despite their warts and imperfections, make wiser investments. Bankers spend years playing golf, having dinner and exchanging presents with company executives they might have known since their schooldays. The virtue of markets is that their judgements are not distorted by personal sentiment - or bribery. In the face of today's huge technical, demographic and social changes, capitalism in its flexible, free-wheeling Anglo-Saxon variety is

Want to close the class gap? Try taxing the rich when they're dead





DONALD **MACINTYRE INHERITANCE** TAXES

The Royal Family may have just made their most modernising decision yet. By decreeing, after what looks like some initial hesitation, that Princes William and Harry will have to pay up £7m in death duties on Princess Diana's estate, the Queen and the Prince of Wales have at a stroke exposed what may prove to be one of the few truly ideological issues left at the end of the 20th century: taxation of inherited wealth. By rejecting an entirely legal scheme to avoid paying the tax - transfer of the assets into a trust for the two Princes - they have chosen to stump up what anyone this rich with the savvy to employ a tax lawyer and/or accountant knows is one of those taxes you just don't need to pay. And in the long run they may have taken a more significant - and entirely welcome - step in making the case for inheritance tax than

they realise. That isn't, of course, how everyone will see it. The most enjoyable weekend remark on the saga was from the anonymous tax lawyer who told the Sunday Telegraph: "What might be perfectly acceptable for an ordinary family with a very

large estate might not be acceptable for this particular family." There is a pleasing subtext of underlying panic here: good grief, we don't want this kind of thing catching on. If the Royal Family behave like this, all sorts of people could start paying inheritance tax. And how then would we earn our money? But he's right, of course. All those "ordinary families with very large estates" will continue avoiding inheritance tax; until, that is, something is done to make it a good deal more dif-

Which is what quite a lot of people, possibly including those advising the Royal Family, thought Gordon Brown would announce in his Green Budget today. Whether or not this was one of the reasons why the Royal Family recently considered the trust option - before rejecting it - the personal finance and business pages of the newspapers have for the past that Brown would use his Commons statement today to start closing the biggest inheritance tax loopholes. These reports were fuelled by those who make a living setting up avoidance schemes. It's always good for business if you can frighten potential customers with a cut-off point. And no doubt quite a few wealthy people were gullible enough to set up trusts to beat the alleged deadline.

As it happens, the Chancellor isn't going to make any such announcement today. Nor would he, whatever he intended to do in the March budget. Significantly, he will emphasise, in general terms, that the very rich, as opposed to middle Britain, are currently, and unacceptably, free to avoid taxes of all kinds. But as every ex-Chancellor knows, to give five well-paid jobs (something

months' notice of a tax measure like this would indeed trigger a wholesale flight by the wealthy into every possible avoidance scheme - legal and perhaps not so legal. Which leaves open between now and spring the question of whether or not Gordon Brown, having heavily attacked avoidance of inheritance tax before the election, now intends to reinforce and expand the coverage of the tax next March. Will he? And should he?

The answer to the first question is "probably"; to the second "certainly". Let us nevertheless first consider the counter-case. The Conservatives didn't do much to make more people pay inheritance tax because, with the possible exception of Kenneth Clarke, they didn't believe in it. Indeed. in the 1992 manifesto, they even committed themselves to eventual abolition of both inheritance and capital gains tax. The ostensible argument most frequently used was that wealth should "cascade down the generations" and that the honourable desire to pass on your accumulated fortune to your children was part of what encouraged you to make money in the first of place - a positive motor of the economy.

Partly, however, I blame that Friedrich Hayek. The guru of the right helped to lend the cause of abolishing what is after all the most painlessly redistributive of taxes a kind of respectability. In a distinctly weird passage of his 1960 book The Constitution of Liberty, Hayek used other arguments in favour of untaxed inheritance: such as that parents denied the opportunity of passing on riches to their children would be more likely to use unreasonable influence to lever them into

which in a properly meritocratic society would anyway be impossible), and - most breathtakingly of all - that inheriting wealth makes you behave better; according to Hayek "the grosser pleasures in which the newly rich often indulge have usually no attraction for those who have inherited wealth". (Sadly, Friedrich was writing too early to enjoy the daily doings of minor aristocrats, Eurotrash and businessmen's brats in the Nigel Dempster column.)

But not everyone on the right agrees. You can talk to brighter Tories who see all this for the bunkum it is. In particular they point out that if a more dynamic, entrepreneurial society is what you're after, it makes little sense to create a new generation of rich layabouts who don't need to work. Inheriting wealth is a rather more potent disincentive. perhaps, than the allegedly dreadful prospect of having your assets over £215,000 (the present threshold) taxed at 40 per cent at the point of your death would be. In other words, so far from inheritance tax being an obsolete instrument of the politics of envy, it helps to underpin free enterprise.

But inheritance tax is also an essential component of a fair tax system, particularly when increasing income tax is regarded as less and less com- true.

patible with winning elections. It's certainly legitimate to examine whether disability benefit only goes to deserving cases. But the corollary is surely that the scams which allow those at the other end of the income scale to avoid paying taxes, including capital taxes such as inheritance tax, have to be outlawed too - whether by buying a farm and working it for just two years or spuriously allowing occasional public visits to your stately home to

see a painting or two. Avoidance isn't everything: there is a strong case, which needs to be built, for extending the scope of the tax. But ending the schemes and wheezes would be a big start. At present £1.5bn is raised each year through the tax. No one, least of all the Inland Revenue, will tell you how much more could be raised if the rich actually paid it. This is one issue about which Tony Blair should be immune powerful. After all the Royal Family has made it just a little bit less respectable to avoid paying inheritance tax. This is a tax which promotes equality of opportunity and militates against class division. It was Gordon Brown's role model. David Lloyd George, who said that "Death is the most convenient time to tax rich people." It's still

If you're homeless or in jail, you probably grew up in care



ANDREAS WHITTAM **SMITH** CHILDREN AT RISK

I first realised how serious is the plight of children looked after by local authorities rather than by their families when I chaired an inquiry into youth homelessness. For the largest group of young people who live on the streets, or squat or stay in hostels or in other short-term accommodation, are those who have been in care. As Sir William Tuing's report published last seek notes, they comprise 30 per cent of the total.

Young people who have been placed with foster families or in children's homes also account for a sizeable proportion of the prison population - 23 per cent of adult prisoners and 38 per cent of young prisoners. From "care" to a life on the streets or in prison, those who make this passage truly are the excluded from society.

Sir William was asked to focus primarily on physical, sexual and emotional abuse by adults or by other children, but I read his report as a primer on the entire system. What is going wrong? In Victorian times, confronted with such a situation, the first step the reformers would have taken would have been to legislate. But now, over 100 years later, we have an abundance of legislation and official guidance, if not

The Children Act of 1989 introduced a lot of new safeguards. The Act states that the first duty of a local authority to a child in its care is "to safeguard and promote his welfare". In turn the Act has been supplemented with regulations and guidance. Some 14 publications giving detailed advice have been published by the

Department of Health alone in the past three years. Indeed Sir William believes that the amount of regulations, statutory guidance, departmental circulars and letters, reports by inspectors and other reports, is now so large that responsible managers have difficulty in

comprehending it all. The key malfunction is that the instructions, recommendations and good intentions of central government are often disregarded. One reason is an excessively diffuse structure. In England alone, 132 separate social services departments run 836 children's homes; and in addition there are 202 private and 64 voluntary homes. Moreover, the most potent influence on local authority behaviour is the financial pressure under which they work. Because it is seven times more expensive to place a child in a home rather than with a foster family, there is a continuing retrenchment in residential care. There is a preoccupation with keeping occu-

pancy levels as high as possible

and some children are shoe-

horned into vacancies in un-

suitable establishments. Other

children are moved from insti-

tution to institution, causing fur-

ther upheaval in their development. And yet other children are put into homes far away from their local areas and then forgotten.

Nobody can estimate how much sexual abuse by adults (and by other children) and how much bullying takes places in children's homes, except that it appears to be endemic. At least the fact of the abuse has become well known. Best practice in terms of selecting staff and monitoring them has been made very clear to local authorities in recent years. And now the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, has set up a ministerial taskforce to deliver a "safer environment" for children. It will have to be a very large, powerful and active taskforce to be effective.

Think about the questions a child being put into the care of his or her local authority could ask. Will I be placed into a children's home if that is more suitable for me than foster care? Answer: maybe. If I am put into a home, will it be suitable for my circumstances? Possibly not. Will I be sexually abused by the staff or by other children or be bullied? There is a definite risk. Will the new taskforce

make any difference? Hardly. Will I get a good education? Answer: you will be lucky to get any education at all. One government report found that over one third of the children in residential care were not receiving education. Another report discovered that one in four of those aged 14 to 16 were not attending school regularly and many had been excluded and had no regular educational placement. In short, if children are in care, it is assumed that they are "difficult" and schools won't take them. No wonder that 75 per cent of care leavers have no academic qualifications of any kind and that more than 50 per cent are unemployed. Nor, in light of this, is it alto-

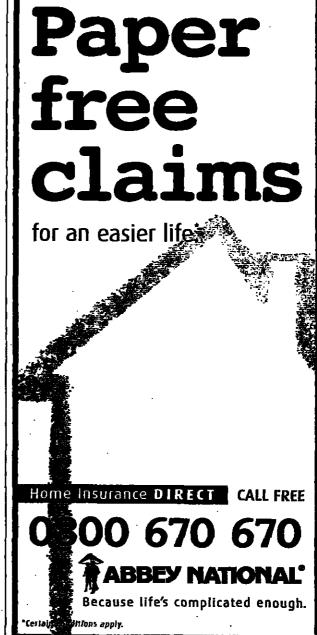
As 50,000 children are in foster care compared with 10,000 in children's homes, I turned with interest to Sir William's findings. But Sir William is the first to admit that not a lot is known about foster care. As compared with children's homes, little research has been carried out. Policy makers have not thought about fostering much. This is a pity as children in fos- be raised substantially.

gether surprising than many

turn to street life or crime.

ter homes tend to be younger than those in children's homes, with 42 per cent of them under 10 years old. Quite a high proportion of them have some form of disability including emotional and behavioural problems. And they are clearly at risk of abuse since they are isolated and because they are young. The saving grace, perhaps, is that much fostering is short-term. The average stay is about 22 weeks.

What is to be done? For once there is an obvious piece of re-organisation that should be carried out, one which would bring about a substantial improvement in the standards of children's homes without raising costs - and which could even produce a saving! It is to make children's homes a national service rather than a local one. Local authorities should continue to be responsible for foster care, where local knowledge is of great importance. But they have shown themselves unfit to run children's homes. Rather than 132 local authorities managing 836 institutions more or less badly, one agency should be responsible. Then, and only then, could standards



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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: IndyBusiness@ Independent.Co.uk FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Stock markets shaken as Yamaichi closure leads to collapse in confidence

In a bid to calm international markets, the Japanese authorities yesterday promised to bail out customers of the ruined brokerage, Yamaichi Securities, but doubts about the stability of the country's financial system overshadowed world stock markets, report Richard Lloyd Parry and Tom Stevenson.

The Ministry of Finance ordered Yamaichi to suspend all but its most routine operations after the company announced early yesterday morning that it was voluntarily closing down.

The Japanese financial markets were closed for a public holiday yesterday, but elsewhere reactions were broadly negative. In London, shares fell sharply in early trade with the FTSE 100 index losing more than 100 points at one stage. The market recovered its poise later in the day, however, after Wall Street appeared to take the Asian turmoil in its stride.

The FTSE 100 closed 87.2 points down at 4898.6 after a day of very thin trading. By the end of trading in London, the Dow Jones index was only 50 points lower but it later moved lower as attention swung to how dealers would react in Tokyo when markets reopened after the long weekend.

Western stock markets focused on the impact the collapse in confidence in the Far East would have on earnings forecasts for companies with a heavy Asian exposure and the worst performers included banks such as Standard Chartered and HSBC. Merrill Lynch said yesterday it thought adverse currency effects, slower economic growth and lower product prices would have a "significant" effect and money poured into perceived safe havens such as utilities.

Others were more bullish, believing the thin volumes seen throughout yesterday's session suggested that the early falls in UK equities were triggered by a markdown rather than any panic selling. The optimistic view sees the Japanese monetary authorities moving to restore investor confidence and global markets staging a swift recovery.

of an IMF rescue mission likely to phinge the economy into recession, fell 7 per cent yesterday to an all-time low. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended slightly higher, up 72 points at 10,620.1.

Shohei Nozawa, Yamaichi's president. wept as he made the official announcement after a weekend of crisis meetings failed to come up with any way of saving the company, the fourth-biggest of the Japanese brokerages. "This unexpected situation on our 100th anniversary is heartbreaking, and we don't know how to beg the pardon of our customers, shareholders, and many related people who care for us," the tearful executive told reporters during a press conference at the Tokyo Stock Exchange, "As a representative of the company, I am

The government's most senior finance officials moved quickly to promise protection to customers of Yamaichi and to bail out other financial institutions facing credit difficulties. Declining stock prices, together with a stagnant economy, have made it much more expensive for Japanese institutions to borrow money on the international markets. It was the decision by Moody's, the American credit rating agency, to downgrade Yamaichi's debt to junk bond status last Friday that effectively sealed the brokerage's fate.

"Every effort will be made to protect the assets of Yamaichi's clients," said the minister of finance, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka. "Therefore we strongly urge investors and business clients not to be concerned and to stay calm. Although Yamaichi's net worth is judged positive at this moment, we stand ready to take any appropriate measures to secure the return of clients' assets and to ensure the orderly settlement of existing transactions and positions."

In a separate press conference, the governor of the Bank of Japan (BoJ), Yasuo Matsushita, announced it would extend unlimited unsecured loans to Yamaichi to protect some 24 trillion yen in client deposits. He said the government would draft legislation intended to increase the size of bailout funds for banks, insurance companies the financial system in general. and brokerages in order to protect against future failures. And, in an attempt to as-

Shares in South Korea, under the cloud suage fears of further collapses of financial institutions, he declared the Bol's readiness to take "necessary supportive steps to cope with the risk of unexpected decline in market "quidity".

The Tokyo Stock Exchange will register its reaction this morning when it reopens after a three-day holiday. When Japan's tenth-largest bank, Hokkaido Takushoku, went bust las, week, the Nikkei share average rose on hopes that the failure would help the banking system to flush out the had debts left over from the collapse of the bubble economy.

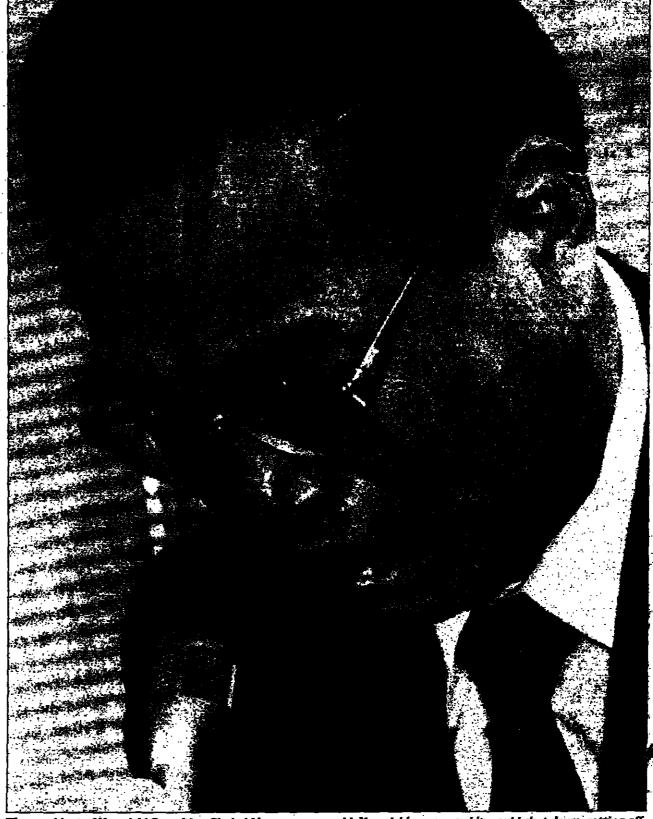
The collapse of Yamaichi is a traumatic event unlikely to be greeted so positively. Its collapse is the biggest corporate failure in Japan since the Second World War. Yamaichi employed 7,500 people at 117 domestic branches and more than 30 branches overseas.

The collapse has also exposed once again the seemingly endemic corruption in a financial sector which has promised again and again to clean up its act. Earlier this year, Yamaichi's image was sullied when, along with the other three of the "big four" brokerages, it was implicated in a scandal involving illegal payments to a corporate racketeer. Over the weekend it emerged that the company had been hiding more than 260 billion yen in losses in dummy companies in the Cayman Islands.

The existence of the debts, bigger even than the huge hidden losses racked up by Sumitomo Corporation and the banks, Daiwa and Barings, will complicate the Bol's mission to bail out the brokerage. The use of public funds to rescue mismanaged companies is highly unpopular among

The failure by the authorities to detect the losses undermines their credibility and raises the possibility that there are other financial institutions similarly burdened with secret debt. Some analysts detected an ambiguity in the government's promise to protect depositors. Despite promising to extend loans to Yamaichi, the government has yet to commit itself to detailed measures to bolster up the weaknesses in

Outlook, page 23 Hamish McRae, page 26



The president of Yamaichi Securities, Shohei Nozawa, breaks into tears while answering a question at a news conference in Tokyo yesterday. "This unexpected situation on our 100th anniversary is heartbreaking," he

said. Yamaichi announced it would shut down, setting off a government offensive to assure a nervous world that the failure was not the start of an economic meltdown.

US rejected Korea's request for finance

South Korea approached the US for emergency financing last week before having to turn to the International Monetary Fund. As Mary Dejevsky reports, the disclosure threatened to embarrass the Americans as they tried to use the summit of Pacific Rim nations in Vancouver this week to restore confidence in the Asian economies.

As the first IMF inspectors started work in Seoul yesterday, South Korea mounted a force-

Now that Japan has

fallen victim to the

through Asia, the

financial crisis rippling

spillover effects on the

US and Europe will be

Editor, discovers, the

serious they might be.

more pronounced. But,

as Diane Coyle, Economics

experts are not sure how

On the day when the collapse

of Yamaichi Securities gave the

clearest sign so far of the scale

of the financial crisis in Asia, the

Organisation for Economic Co-

operation and Development

(OECD) published its author-

itative annual report on the US

economy. The assessment could

not have been more glowing;

but other economists warned

ful defence of its economic record, seeking to distinguish the underlying strength of its economy from the debilitated state of the other faltering tiger economies.

In what appeared to be a rehearsal of South Korea's position for the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) summit, which opened yesterday, a team of senior South Korean economic officials set out to clarify the reasons why South Korea had called in the IMF.

Leading the team, Kim Ki Whah, ambassador at large for economic affairs, said there had been "insufficient understanding" of current economic conditions in Korea and "inadequate understanding of the background" to the call to the

Europe and US wait to see if the

spillover effect will dent growth

slowdown as a result of the cri-

sis will be weaker exports to

Japan, Korea and the Asian

tigers. Not only will their de-

mand for foreign goods shrink,

but the exchange rate has also

moved markedly in the favour

pected to shave up to half a per-

centage point from European

GDP growth and up to 1 per

cent from the US growth rate.

American economy offers the

rest of the world its best insu-

lation from Asian contagion.

The OECD report concludes:

"US macroeconomic outcomes

continue to be extraordinary.

Output growth has reached a

new high for this cycle, the un-

employment rate has fallen to

a level not seen in a generation,

and yet inflation shows no signs

thus far of reacting to capacity

The think-tank, which pre-

pared its forecast before the lat-

est developments in Japan and

The buoyant state of the

Estimates vary, but this is ex-

of Asian exporters.

IMF. He insisted the fundamentals of South Korea's economy were "very sound" and that the government had been largely successful in tackling the country's \$24bn (£14bn) cur-

ued, he said, the deficit would

cent, remained low.

rent account deficit. If the present trend contin-

be reduced to \$14bn for 1997 -3 per cent of GDP compared with 5 per cent for last year. This, he said, had been achieved with little effect on overall growth, which was forecast to average 6 per cent for the current year, compared with 7.1 per cent in 1996. Exports were growing strongly. and unemployment, at 2.5 per

Korea's problems, he said, had been precipitated by a

cent next. This upbeat outlook

suggests the crisis might take the

economy back to its trend

growth rate in 1998 but not

much lower, especially as the

Federal Reserve Board is ex-

pected to keep interest rates un-

changed as long as the

Some European economies

are in much a weaker position

than the US, and analysts dis-

agree over how serious the im-

pact on them will be. The

recovery in France and Ger-

many has been based on ex-

ports, and they therefore look

more vulnerable to a downturn.

mist at DKB in London, argues

that the Asian crisis therefore

means there is a tendency to-

only possible spillover. For the

UK, one of the biggest worries

is whether direct investments by

Japanese and Korean compa-

But lower exports are not the

wards global deflation.

Gerard Lyons, chief econo-

uncertainty lasts.

Korea, predicts US growth of nies will be hit. Although there

3.8 per cent this year and 2.8 per are many more Japanese-

financial position.

However, Korean plants,

such as LG's massive £1.7bn in-

vestment in South Wales, are

thought to be at some risk of be-

ing affected by South Korea's

of economics at Cardiff Uni-

versity's business school, said: "It

could be that LG came to Wales

just in time and it could be some

time before we see another

continue to affect the financial

markets as well as casting a di-

rect shadow over economic

prospects outside the region, an-

alysts said.

The Asian turmoil would

major Korean investment."

Professor Garel Rhys, head

impending recession.

credit squeeze, which had led to a wave of bankruptcies, and exacerbated by the fall of the Hong Kong stock market, which caused a sharp deterioration in international confidence. The result had been "a very sharp liquidity shortage", but a short-term one.

Initially, the government had thought it could arrange emergency financing to tide the country over "without bothering the IMF".

But, he added: "Korea approached its closest allies, and the universal advice was that Korea should go to the IMF." In other words, although Mr Kim stressed the brevity and informality of the conversations and the tentative nature of Korea's enquiries, the US (per-

haps of likely opposition from Congress) and Japan (probably because of its own economic problems) had turned Korea

South Korea's officials expressed confidence that negotiations with the IMF would go smoothly, saying that the IMF remedies would be little different from those already prescribed by the country's own new deputy prime minister and economic supremo.

The measures include the halving of the proportion of Korean banks' non-performing loans, from 6 per cent to 3 per cent of the total, just slightly more than the equivalent percentage in the US; a pruning of financial institutions; and a big widening of the band within

which the value of the Korean currency, the won, may vary against the dollar, from plus or minus 2 per cent to plus or mious 10 per cent.

The government will also undertake to make public statistics for the country's foreign

The pain to Korea of having to call in the IMF was clear from officials' insistence that Korea might not need the full \$20bn in assistance, let alone the additional sums mooted by

some analysts. Despite refusing Seoul's request for assistance, Washington officials at Apec backed South Korea's optimistic prognosis, using it to "talk up" international confidence in the region's economies.

Recruitment 'vultures' lie in wait

on doorstep of London office

The ambulance chasers from question of when." It is expected headhunting agencies were yesterday waiting on Yamaichi's owned plants, they are mostly doorstep early enough to apwell-established and in a strong proach members of the 300strong staff before they were formally informed that they

would soon be out of work. Even a journalist from a tabloid newspaper was surprised to come across the headnunters that early in the day and called them "vultures."

A representative from Parallel International, the recruitment specialists, said the accusation was "a bit rich" and added that the doorstepping exercise was "very fruitful". Staff were informed of their

fate at a 9am meeting. Departmental heads were later instructed to lay off "non-essential" staff as soon as possible. A Yamaichi spokesman said

There will be a dimmer out- around 40 employees had been look for corporate earnings in given redundancy notices, but sectors either most exposed to could not provide further details competition from South-east about the full redundancy Asia or most dependent on ex- timetable. He said: "Everybody ports to the afflicted countries. will lose their job. It's just a

it will take at least six months to wind down all of Yamaichi's London activities.

Yamaichi was unable to say how much redundancy money its employees would receive. But it confirmed that "all contractual bonuses" would be honoured. Of the 300 staff, some 250 are based at Yamaichi International Europe (YIE), its securities house, and the remainder are employed by Yamaichi Bank (UK) Limited, its Londonbased commercial bank.

Representatives from Parallel Înternational arrived at YIE's offices at 9am, just as Kenkichi Nakajima, YIE's chief executive, was telling staff that they would lose their jobs.

Parallel said it had received "around a dozen calls" from Yamaichi staff. The firm also confirmed it

had made it on to a short list of selected headhunting agencies doing the rounds at Yamaichi's London offices.

- Lea Paterson

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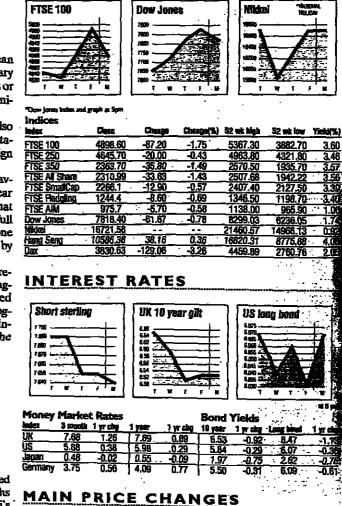
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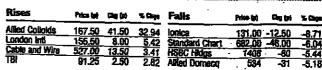
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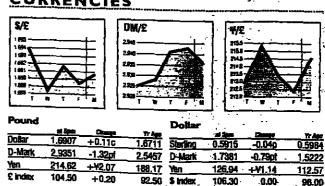
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STOCK MARKETS

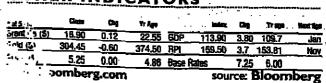




CURRENCIES



104.50 OTHER INDICATORS



that the Asian contagion could seriously dent growth in both the US and Europe. The main channel for any

23/BUSINESS



OUTLOOK ON JAPAN'S PROBLEMS. WHITEHALL'S ASSETS AND REDLAND'S **TACTICS**

The Japanese blues are here to stay

Whenever something calamitous happens in the Japanese economy, a string of commentators, generally American and British, invariably come crawling out of the wood work to opine that it is always darkest just before the dawn, that things can hardly get worse and that the event should therefore be seen not as a reason for giving up on Japan, but as a buying op-

Something like this has been argued in each of the last five years, and it generally causes a little rally in the Nikkei over the summer months, fed by ever hopeful overseas investors. One person unashamedly to have adopted this stance was Ken Courtis, vice-president of Deutsche Bank Capital Markets in Japan and a recognised international guru on the Japanese market. He argued powerfully at the beginning of this year that the worst was over, reform was on the way, and it was time to buy Japan.

This story is recounted not out of the sole purpose of embarrassing Mr Courtis, who in the past has had some good calls on Japan, but by way of warning to those who would see the collapse of Yamaichi as a cathartic experience that will galvanise the Japanese into action and bring about that long awaited bounce in the Nikkei. Unfortunately there is scant evidence of this occurring, and until there is, those who argue that things can only get better are just bottom fishing.

The Japanese Government has not yet committed anything by way of public money even to the business of bailing out the country's insolvent banks, let alone the

massive fiscal stimulus Japan so desperately needs to pull itself out of the doldrums. As our Monday columnist, Gavyn Davies of Goldman Sachs, has argued, without this package Japan will limp on for years to come, her already weakened condition made infinitely worse by the collapse of the Asian Tiger economies.

So far equity markets in Europe and the US have proved remarkably resilient to the horrors of the Far East. Having shown unnerving signs of crashing in late October, markets have since "uncrashed" and the overall correction in developed economies has been modest. Japan will obviously provide another important test when it begins trading again in the early hours of today after its long three day weekend. But at this stage it is looking as if Armageddon has once more been postponed. For the time being, markets seem happy to dismiss warnings of the export of Japanese deflation into the global economy as alarmist nonsense.

In any case, some good is plainly bound to come out of it all. Markets are forcing the pace of change, exposing and trouncing the corrupt and cronyish practices of these largely protected economies. Aid from the International Monetary Fund to the Tiger economies is coming at a high price in terms of structural reform. Events are plainly moving much more swiftly than the Japanese Government would like, but markets are in fact only imposing in the brutal way they often do what official policy is already bent on achieving.

It is always easy to forget in describing

the Japanese economy that it is essentially a tale of two economies. While the protected service, construction and financial sectors have continued to flounder, Japan still has a whole raft of internationally competitive, world class companies (Sony, Toyota, Cannon), which have remained

immune to the present crisis. Japan's awakening to reality in its own domestic economy has been a long and difficult one. The real world is proving a rather more brutal than the one Japan has traditionally inhabited. Structural reform may be the only way out for these economies, but the road to salvation is a highly painful one. Certainly it is in itself unlikely to prove conducive to a revival in the Japanese stock market. To most external observers it is obvious that Japan needs to accompany structural reform with a massive fiscal stimulus. Unfortunately, this is by no means obvious to the Japan-

Register is a good start

The Antiques Roadshow collided with Whitehall yesterday and the result, accompanied by plenty of oohing and aahing, was the National Asset Register. This is a 550-page record of everything the Government owns, right down to the last shredding machine, forklift truck, Polaris submarine (one careful owner, end of Cold War forces sale) and Stubbs oil. Alastair Darling, the saturnine Chief Secretary to

the Treasury, makes an unlikely Hugh Sculley. But even he could barely suppress the odd gasp of avaricious excitement as the booty was checked over

Exhibit One: The old clock that has sat around the Cabinet Office gathering dust for three centuries, Really, £80,000? Well never. And that's not all. There are 11,000 works of art buried away in Whitehall's books, not to mention regal thrones. 50 museums, 1,300 highland crofts, 1,000 answerphones (all at the DTI apparently), enough bloodstock to fill 10 stud farms. the odd Nelson's Column and the car park next to Ipswich football ground.

Total public spending is running at a shade over £300bn a year. By a handy quirk of fate, the Government's assets are reckoned to be worth about the same. Just think how much more cash Gordon Brown would have to play with, and all of it perfectly legit, if we just sold off one or two bits and pieces from this remaining hoard of family silver.

There are, of course, limits on how much money Whitehall departments would be allowed to raise through sales of unwanted and underutilised assets and you have to wonder how much, if anything, a lot of it would fetch.

But the Register is a handy start at identifying privatisation candidates. More importantly, it marks the first step towards the introduction of conventional resource accounting across Whitehall from 1999 onwards. That will oblige the Government to do all those boring old things that form a part of commercial life, like producing

cash flow statements and separating capital from current accounting. Any improvement in the transparency of the public accounts is obviously a good thing.

Remember what happened to Scott

Redland, the besieged building materials group, is utilising a form of the famous Captain Oates defence (I'm going out, I may be some time), by caving into perceived shareholder pressure and agreeing to eject Robert Napier as chief executive. The idea here is that by jettisoning the man seen as chiefly responsible for the company's dreadful performance in recent years, Redland might convince shareholders to give its other directors the benefit of the doubt and reject Lafarge's hostile £1.67bn takeover bid. As its description implies, deployment of such a defence always smacks a little of desperation.

For a start, there is the ominous fact that Captain Oates's act of self sacrifice didn't in practice work; Scott and the others perished anyway. And for seconds, there is the uncomfortable truth that in collecting a £700,000 payoff as he wanders off into the night for a pee, Mr Napier isn't sacrificing anything. In departing into the storm, he seems to be taking with him the socks, remaining victuals and a couple of sleeping bags to boot. Providing Gallie pride doesn't get the better of Lafarge, and it sweetens its offer a little, the betting must still be with the French.

Thames Water shareholders attack Sir Robert Clarke's pay package

A shareholder rebellion is brewing at Thames Water over the pay package of the group's chairman. Sir Robert larke, whose émuneration has been criticised by the Chancellor, Institutional investors say Sir Robert's pay is excessive as he is handing over responsibilities to the

Institutions complained that, as Sir Robert is effectively "winding down" his involvement with the group ahead of his retirement in 1999, he should be paid

executive. Nigel Cope,

City Correspondent,

a fraction of his current salary. Sir Robert was paid £247,000 in the year to March but was awarded a.4 per cent "cost of living" increase in July. One leading shareholder said: There is an element of principle here as to whether the remuneration committee is really doing its job. I believe institu-

tions should make a stand." Some investors feel Sir Robert is "hanging on" as executive chairman even though Bill Alexander was recently promoted to chief executive. They said Sir Robert's increased pay was justified when he was fulfilling the role of acting chief executive but should have fallen following Mr Alexander's appointment.

Another shareholder said: "You have to question whether the board is acting in the best interests of shareholders. If they want a chairman to stay on until he retires I don't see why

he should get more than, say. £100,000."

Thames Water defended its decision to retain Sir Robert as executive chairman on full pay even though a full-time chief executive had been appointed to replace Michael Hoffman. He left the group 18 months ago after a disastrous diversification

A spokesman said: "What we have got is a strong central team that is delivering results in the utilities business and the nonregulated operations. There is The company denied that an

18-month handover was excessive and said Sir Robert was doing a full, five-day week. We feel this is in the best interests of shareholders and neither we nor our brokers have heard from any investors."

However, the company hopes to defuse the situation by contacting its top 10 institutional investors. These include Chase Manhattan, Franklin Resources, MAM, Sun Life, Standard Life, Legal & General and Prudential.

Some institutions have drawn attention to Sir Robert's poor record in his executive position at United Biscuits, the McVities snacks group. During his four-year tenure as chief executive from 1986, United Biscuits shares underperformed the market badly. In the following five years, when he was chairman, they underperformed by more than 30 per cent.

Thames Water provoked the ire of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, this month when he learned that Sir Robert was to enjoy a pay rise even though his responsibilities were diminishing. The chancellor said he would not tolerate a "new round of boardroom irresponsibility" in the privatised utilities.

Smiths chairman's retirement sparks GEC speculation

Sir Roger Hurn is today expected to announce his retirement as chairman of Smiths Industries, heightening speculation that he will become the next chairman of the GEC defence and electronics giant .

Shareholders attending Smiths' annual meeting at its North-west London headquarters will be told that Sir Roger intends to step down after 29 years with the group,

the last six of them as chairman. However, there will not be an announcement either from GEC or Smiths about where he is going although his appointment to the chairman's job at GEC in succession to Lord Prior now looks increasingly like a formality. "He has the right background, he has the experience in defence and he is well respected. Everything

seems to fit," said one source. Sir Roger has been tipped to take over at GEC for some months. However, his present £719,000-a-year contract at Smiths does not run out until November pext year, at which

point he can leave with three

months' notice. GEC needs to

sort out the succession to the chairman's job by March, when Lord Prior retires from the £200,000-a-year post.

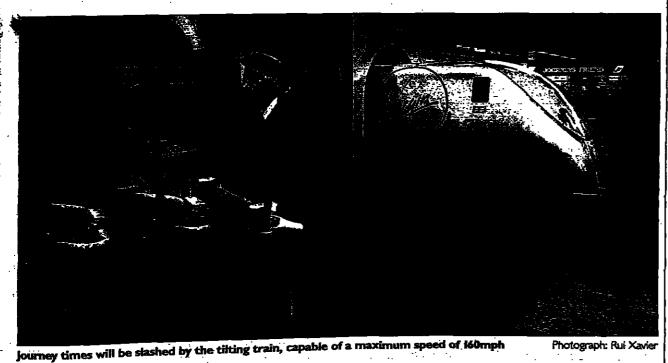
Lord Prior, GEC's outgoing

chairman, told shareholders in September that the company would name a successor early the new year. Sir Roger, aged 59, emerged as a leading contender for the job after George Simpson made clear that he was breaking with GEC's tradition of appointing former politicians to its board, killing off rumours that Michael Heseltine might succeed Lord Prior.

Sir Roger, who joined Smiths Industries in 1958 and has run the company since 1981, has already built up a close relationship with Mr Simpson. They are both non-executive directors of ICI and share backgrounds in

the engineering industry. If GEC does appoint Sir Roger, the move would bolster City expectations that Mr Simpson will accelerate the reform of the group which makes everything from trains to Hotpoint kitchen appliances.

– Michael Harrison and Chris Godsmark



Bids in for Virgin's £1 bn tilting trains

Long-suffering passengers on the West Coast Mainline can look forward to travelling in the lap of luxury in the next millennium after bids were handed in yesterday for the biggest train order in British railway history. Michael Harrison reports on what travellers cán expect.

The order for a fleet of 55 high-speed tilting trains placed by Virgin Trains is worth almost £1bn including the cost of supplying the rolling stock and maintaining it over

the 13-year life of the franchise. The seven carriage trains will offer three classes of travel - premium, business and standard class, executive lounges, seat back akeos and computer games consoles. Some carriages will also be fitted with spe-

Three competing bids were handed in by yesterday's deadline from GEC-Fiat, Adtranz and Siemens. Virgin is expected to narrow the short-

list to two next month, announce a preferred bidder in January and sign firm contracts in March.

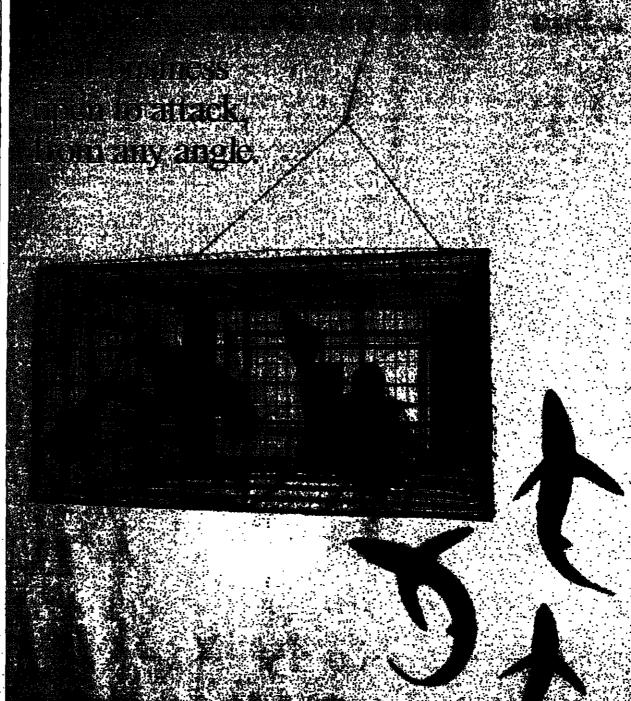
The trains will replace some of the oldest and most decrepit rolling stock on the rail network and will start entering service in 2001. Once the new fleet is in operation and the West Coast Mainline has been upgraded by Railtrack at a total cost of £2.1bn, the journey time from London to Birmingham will be cut to one hour. Manchester will be two hours away and Glasgow four

The tilting trains will be able to travel at a maximum speed of 140 mph although the three manufacturers have been asked to include an option in their

bids for trains capable of 160 mph. GEC-Alsthom and Fiat yesterday imveiled a half life-size model of the Pendolino tilting train which they are offering to supply. The train is already in service in Italy and eight other European countries and Great North Eastern Railways has ordered two Pendolinos.

Peter Murray, managing director of GEC-Alsthom, said that if it won the contest then 70 per cent of the work would come to the UK. The bogies, tilting mechanism and body shells will come from Italy. But all the traction equipment and interiors will be UK-sourced and the trains will be assembled at GEC-Alsthom's Birmingham and Preston factories which employ a total of 1,900.

Adtranz, a joint venture between ABB and Daimler Benz is offering the Swedish X2000 tilting train but again this will be assembled at its Derby factory, formerly part of British Rail Engineering, Siemens is bidding with the German ICE train -



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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Japan looks good for risk-takers

After the collapse of yet another Japanese financial firm, should investors steer clear of the land of the rising sun? The answer, perversely, is no. It seems there is nothing like the sight of a big Japanese broker going under to cheer investors up.

Since the Japanese government announced that it would allow Yamaichi Securities to become Japan's biggestever corporate failure, the mood of international fund managers has switched from sullen bearishness to tentative optimism.

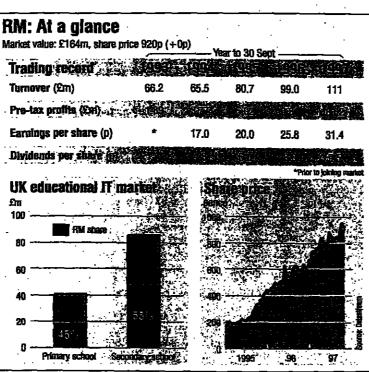
The long-held perception is that Japan's ministry of finance has been sweeping fundamental problems under the tatami - such as ignoring massive bad debts and turning a blind eye to questionable corporate practice. Recognition that Yamaichi Securities had to go to the wall appears, at first glance, to be the beginning of the end of Japan's bear market.

To Western eyes, Japan has for too long resisted the combination of market forces and bad debts which have led Yamaichi - and before it Sanyo Securities and Hokkaido Takushoku bank -

into effective bankruptcy.
The political unpopularity of using public money to bail out brokers in the midst of a recession has stopped finance ministers from stepping in to protect the interests of customers. But because it appears that the Government is now taking a tougher, more realistic approach to systemic problems in the sector, institutional investors are now thinking again. Paul Kirkby, head of the Japanese desk at Global Asset Management, is now cautiously selecting Japanese banking stocks after avoiding them for 10 years.

However, for all but the opportunistic, any calls to buy must be hedged with provisos. Japan's economic policy remains a muddle - as Peter Whelpton, president of Gartmore's Japanese operations, points out. And the spectre of systemic risk, affecting further banks and life insurance companies, is as daunting as ever. More worrying, the government has left itself with little room for manoeuvre, with interest rates

already as low as 0.5 per cent. Outside banking, there may be some



RM's second half.

that Mike Fischer, RM's founder and

chief executive for 24 years, is

stepping into a non-executive role.

creasing market share in primary

Acorn/Apple, RM's software is based

on the universal Microsoft operating

teachers rather than through agents,

allowing it to step in quickly to offer

Though hardware, a low-margin

business, still represents over 60 per

The focus was more on RM's in-

scope for bottom picking - though not in export stocks such as Sony, which have already priced in the low yen. The rewards could be great, but this is strict- be lower than last year due to an extra ly for the risk takers.

RM thrives on classroom (T

League tables, parental choice and a Labour government intent on hooking up every child in the UK to the Internet mean schools are starting to take information technology and secondary schools. Unlike seriously.

Teachers still spend less than one per cent of their budgets on educa- system. It also sells directly to tional information technology, but total spending on computers and software in schools has risen six-fold in new products. the past ten years and is accel-

Happily for its investors, RM is at cent of the group's revenues, RM's classroom. Shares in the company, growing much faster. RM also moved which floated at 175p in 1994, have early into the Internet, with over £15m cash pile. powered ahead as the company con- three-quarters of the market in tinues to take market share from its network connections. only real rival - the Acorn/Apple joint

cent to a near five year low of 81.5p when the company issued its second profit warning of the year. This is not the kind of early Christmas present chief executive Chris Burgin had in The latest warning was caused by a hombshell from Mattel, the US toy

giant which distributes Polly Pocket, Bluebird's best selling toy outside of the UK. It has decided not to sell Polly Pocket at all in North America next year ahead of a relaunch of the brand in 1999. This is a serious blow for Bluebird as sales of Polly Shares in the company held firm Pocket in North America will acat 920p, despite yesterday's caution count for 7 per cent of group revthat next year's interim profits would enues this year. Investors should be concerned on £750,000 RM is ploughing into new

£10.2m to £9.5m. That puts the shares

on a steep 40 times earnings. Long-

term growth prospects remain good.

The higher they fly, the harder they fall. And Bluebird Toys has certainly taken

a dive. Shares in this one-time glam-

our stock soared to 375p two years ago.

Yesterday the price sank nearly 20 per

US blow to

Bluebird Toys

products and that £100m of the two counts. One is the immediate impact on the bottom line. Profits are government money which is expected to come in at around £5mcommitted to educational IT will not be available to schools until £6m this year compared to previous forecasts of some £8.5m. Nobody worried too much either

The second issue is whether Mattel will work as hard on marketing Polly Pocket outside the US when it is not being sold in its main market. Given that Polly Pocket accounts for almost balf of Bluebird's annual sales, this is a serious concern.

It may be that Mattel is cooling on Polly completely and will decide not to relaunch it in the US after all. Given a plethora of other, reasonably priced goodies to tempt children these days - the Tamagotchi virtual pet for one - Polly Pocket may have run out of puff. A rescue bid or management buy-out is a posthe forefront of taking IT into the services and software divisions are sibility, particularly with the company valued at little more than its

> On a forward multiple of just 10, the share price reflects these worries. Credit Lyonnais Laing has The crucial Christmas period also tweaked 1998 forecasts down from looms. Unattractive on fundamentals.

US rival launches £1.1bn hostile bid for Allied Colloids

Allied Colloids was plunged into a battle for survival yesterday after Hercules, a US rival, launched a hostile £1.1bn bid for the chemicals group. Andrew Yates finds that, with other bidders likely to enter the fray, Allied faces an uphili struggle to keep its

Hercules yesterday launched a stinging attack on Allied Colloids' poor investment record and its management as it made a unsolicited £1.1bn, 155p-ashare swoop for the company.

independence

The US chemicals group criticised Allied for its poor share price performance, its disappointing investment performance and its ineffective response to rising raw material prices and the strength of the pound, which has pummelled

Keith Elliott, chairman and chief executive of Hercules,

said yesterday: "This is a very generous offer. Allied has underperformed the stock market by 38 per cent over the last three years. Other exporters have not underperformed by as much as others are managed better."

However, David Farrar, chief executive of Allied, blasted Hercules' bid and promised to mount a strong defence. This undervalues our company. It is an unrealistic bid. We are not for sale and have a bright independent future," he said.

Allied's shares jumped 41.4p to 167.5p, well above the offer price, reflecting the widely held view in the City that the bid is not high enough to ensure success. Analysts are predicting a protracted takeover battle which is likely to involve more

than one bidder. Michael Eastwood, chemicals analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "This is not a knockout bid. A fair price for the business is around 180p."

One analyst said: "Allied is unlikely to remain as a publicly quoted company but it will

probably be sold for a higher price. I wouldn't be surprised if Allied was forced to reopen talks with other groups to try and find a white knight.

Mr Elliott proclaimed: "This is a great business combination creating an excellent portfolio of speciality chemicals."

Experts believe Hercules could create £200m of cost savings from the deal by 1999. However analysts point out that it does not have a UK base . and is not a direct competitor in any of Allied's main businesses. A larger chemicals group which operates in Allied's markets would be able to extract higher cost savings and could afford to up the stakes.

Likely potential bidders include the US groups Dow and Allied Signal and the European giants BASF and Ciba. The cash-rich UK rival Laporte has ruled itself out of the running so far but may be tempted.

Only last week Allied admitted it was in tentative takeover talks, only to announce on Friday that they had come to nothing.

BT drops move to new office

British Telecom has shelved plans to move its most senior staff into a brand new £2.4m a year central London headquarters building, following the collapse of its merger hopes with MCI of the US.

The block in Berkeley Square, one of London's most sought-after locations, was to have been the headquarters of Concert, the company created from the planned merger with

It would have housed 150 top BT staff including Sir Iain Vallance, chairman, and Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, though other staff would re-

main it the current BT Centre other £2in. The company said near St Paul's Cathedral.

BT signed a 15-year lease on the block in August, but confirmed yesterday that it would no longer be moving into the building and was seeking another tenant. The company had previously hinted that it would use the offices whether or not the merger went ahead. BT admitted defeat a fortnight ago after WorldCom raised its rival offer for MCI

from \$30bn (£18bn) to \$37bn. Despite the uncertainty over the merger, BT had recently begun fitting out the building, a task expected to cost at least an-

this had been confined to "preparatory renovation work." though this has included ripping out part of an expensive slate floor in the large entrance lobby. The steel and glass block has seven floors of offices, plus basements with car parking

Ralph Pearson, director of Chesterton's, which negotiated the original deal for Prudential, the building's owner, said: "We can confirm that the letting was completed in August and BT has been pressing on with fitting out the building."

- Chris Godsmark

JJB Sports staff reap £4.5m

Thirty four workers at JJB Sports, the sports retailer, have made a paper fortune of £4.5m between them on share options granted at the time of the company's stock market flotation.

The senior staff, which include area managers, buyers and warehouse managers, were granted the options over IIB shares when the retailer came to the market in 1994. The shares. which started trading at the equivalent of 77p three years ago, closed at 604p last Friday. a rise of 684 per cent though they edged down to 593.25p yesterday. The current market value of the shares under option is £5.15m, with a gain of £4.5m.

In its three years on the market JJB has grown its turnover from £60.5m to £130m while profits have risen from £7.6m to £20.3m

David Whelan, chairman of JJB said: "I believe that no business can grow at this rate without significant input of time and effort by its staff and I am delighted that so many of our senior staff are benefiting from the

company's success over the last Tesco is to send a team of man-

Mr Whelan said he was coufident that a significant number of the shares would be retained by the staff though some kind of

JJB had 123 stores at the time of flotation. It opens its 200th outlet next month. The company has benefited from the surge in popularity in branded sportswear with clothing and trainers from companies such as Adidas, Nike and Reebok.

~ Nigel Cope

gers to the Far East in the next few months to examine the pos-

sibility of opening stores in South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand. The supermarket group has 'spending spree" is expected. been monitoring the area from its buying office in Hong Kong but is now keen to gain more in-

formation on the key markets. Tesco said it was not deterred by the turmoil in financial markets in the Far East saying that the longer term prospects in the region were still good. "There is no commitment yet but it is

a good time to look. These are

Tesco eves Far East expansion

strong consumer markets." Tesco is keen to establish if markets such as Thailand and Taiwan would prove profitable areas for the hypermarket format it has expanded so successfully in central Europe. Tesco already has stores in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia and is expanding rapidly. It will open six more hypermarkets in these countries next year and a further 6-10 the year after.

Tesco's Far Eastern adventure highlights the different strategies of the top food retailers. While Tesco is concentrating on Europe and the Far East, Sainsbury's still feels the US is a more profitable route to expansion. Asda is performing well under its lower prices proposition while Safeway which issued another profits warning next week looks set for a period of consolidation during which it will look to return cash to shareholders after its plans to merge with Asda

were called off.

COMPANY RESULTS 19.4p (16.1p) 3.0p (2.0p) 15.22m (10.57m) 3.196m (1.756m) 8.6c (7.6p) nii (mil) Halaki Graum (03) 70,68m (51,71m) 3,829m (2,931m) 5.220 (3.280) aroosan Telecom (f) 81.52m (53m) 2.4m (1.53m) Sejestic Wises (1) 26.47m (21.94m) 1.028m (-82,000) 5,550 (-2,130) 1,60 21.8m (18.1m) Grages Group (F) - (-) 430,000 (609,000) 2,30 (3,20) mf yelling Svs (F) 21.76m (21.04m) outh States Water (1) 38.93m (32.45m) 10.34m (8.67m) 169.8m (186.4m) 10.52m (12.76m) 2.4p (4.3p) 0.5p (1.25p) 110.2m (99.03m) 8.02m (6.81m) 31.4p (25.8p) 9.5p (8.0p) 45.94m (26.04m) 14.05m (9.7m) 2.84p (2.52p) 0.5p (nd) ir125.3m (ir131m) ir6.87m (ir4.44m) 24.21p (14.01p) 17.4p (16.86p) Halerfall Hidgs (F) 12.79m (6.83m) 1.89m (630,000) 4.72p (3.8p) oskan Group (F) 173,000 (257,000) -844,009 (-270,000) - (-) (F) - Final (I) - Interins (II) - Quarterly (SP) - Split period



Footsie tumbles as the shock waves from Japan reach London

MARKET REPORT



CATHY NEWMAN

The closure of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaichi Securities was always going to dominate trading around the committee of Yamaic dominate trading around the world yesterday. As expected, Footsie tumbled immediately after opening, and never really recovered. That said, although the index remained heavily subdued all day, shares were marked down rather than sold off. Volume was unextraordinary, with almost 660 mil-

lion shares changing hands. Footsie dropped to 4883.6, down 102.2 points, at midmorning, but closed just grazing the 4,900 mark, down 87.2 points at 4,898.6.

Investors did not need a crystal ball to predict which the bidding war for MCI, the companies would suffer the US telecoms group. most. Financial stocks, particularly those with interests in the Far East, were marked down array of profit warnings and most heavily. Standard Char- negative trading statements was in merger talks with an untered was once again thrown to sent several third-division named suitor last week, but the the lions - or should that be the stocks plummeting. Bluebird love affair was never consum-

Halifax both worse off at the end of trading.

One company with Hong America next year. Kong influences which proved & Wireless. Having shed 16.5p in the morning, C&W reversed day was the most wanted blue ers said the company was be- term. ing re-evaluated in the light of

Leaving Yamaichi-inspired shock waves to one side, an yo in the last week. The com-

Footsie fallers. HSBC was also current year would fall below left licking its wounds as it market expectations. The closed down 82p at £14.85. shares dropped 18.5p to 81.5p The pair dragged other banks on news that Mattel, Bluewith them, with Woolwich and bird's international distributor, would not distribute its Polly Pocket toy in North

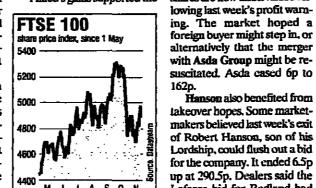
European Telecom also sufan enigma yesterday was Cable fered after a profit warning of sorts. It fell 51p to 261p after Warren Hardy, chairman and its losses and by the end of the chief executive, said the dramatic rate of growth would inchip, up 13.5p to 527p. Deal- evitably slow down in the short

Bid speculation fuelled a handful of stocks, despite the falling market. Allied Colloids has been up and down like a yopany was forced to confirm it

after Friday's announcement after trading closed that merger talks had been terminated. In the event, a bostile US bidder emerged over the weekend - Hercules Corporation - and

climbers to finish up 41.5p at Allied's gains supported the

Allied led the second-division



3.5p to 162.5p, and Manders ended 2.5p better off at 147p. There were other bid

targets to choose from yester-Safeway, for example, which jumped 6.5p to 325.5p. It was buoyed by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, which believes the lowing last week's profit warnforeign buyer might step in, or alternatively that the merger with Asda Group might be re-

Hanson also benefited from Lafarge bid for Redland had 706p.

Water stocks were again enjoying a veritable flood of buyers, after Credit Lyonnais Laing said it was very positive day. Dealers were shopping at on the sector. Severn Trent, continuing a good run last week, was among the best Footsie performers yesterday, climbing 20p to 960p. The shares are now undervalued fol- company reports interim results today. Continuing hopes of a ing. The market hoped a share buyback, and rumours of small acquisitions appeared to be driving the stock. Anglian Water firmed 10p to 830p, and Wessex Water added 4.5p to

511.5p. Great Universal Stores was takeover hopes. Some market- momentarily in demand on makers believed last week's exit the strength of a buy note of Robert Hanson, son of his from Merrill Lynch. The cata-Lordship, could flush out a bid logue home shopping compafor the company. It ended 6.5p my added as much as 34p at one up at 290.5p. Dealers said the point, but closed unchanged at

TAKING STOCK

Wine comooisseurs will soon get a chance to imbibe some California Wine Company stock. The group, which produces wine in the Napa Valley and is traded on Ofex, is raising \$1.67m (£990,000) through a one-for-four rights issue at \$1.50 (88.8p) a share. The money will be used to renovate and expand part of its vineyard, and to buy wine in bulk to benefit from higher demand in the marketplace. The shares closed unchanged at 70.5p.

The Range Cooker Company is cooking up a listing on AIM. It is trying to raise £700,000 to develop its Britannia range of ovens, and to introduce its new Sheffield line. The group is expected to be capitalised at around £6.25m when trading begins on December 1. In the year to the end of April 1997, pre-tax profits jumped from £164,000 to £990,000.

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Yamaichi collapse will end the Japanese culture of concealment



HAMISH MCRAE ON THE END OF ASIAN CONFIDENCE

Foreign Exchange Rates

Just over 10 years ago, at the end amount of experience in estabof October 1987, I found myself in Tokyo in the offices of Yasuda Fire and Marine, one of Japan's largest insurance groups. It was Putting a new economic proa week after the Wall Street crash and everyone, unsurprisingly, was talking of the threat inherently unstable developing lack of transparency: problems to the world economy from country so the criticism that financial market instability. The IMF programmes do not take Japanese view, however, was much more bullish than in Lon- try problems does not apply. Kodon or New York: the crash was rea just needs a pause to sort out just a dip, a slit in the graph of unward movements

During the meeting, the most senior of the Yasuda people was called out to take a phone call. When he returned a few minutes later he was very excited. It had been the Ministry of Finance on the line, and the message to Japan's institutional investors was that they should buy US securities in a co-ordinated way. "Japan," he said proudly, "will save America."

This week, with the collapse of Yamaichi Securities and the visit to the IMF of Korea, the boot seems to be on the other foot. It is not just that Asian triumphalism is out. To judge by cerned about North Korea, the assurances of President Bill Clinton at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit in tant memory. Vancouver, it is America (or at least the US and its allies at the fact that Tokyo was on holiday IMF) that will save Asia. But there are other, more important, lessons to be gleaned from this 10-year perspective than the ease with which the balance of power in the world economy seems to flip around. We are in several weeks before it is senthe middle of quite a complex turning point in the world economy and it is quite difficult even to identify which of the various current concerns really matters and which will seem unimportant a decade hence. Here are some suggestions.

Korea first. The strong probability is that this is the turning point for Korea, just as the IMF visit to Britain in 1976 proved the turning point here. The IMF is not perfect, as its many critics around the world would testify. But it has an enormous

lishing macro-economic stability: it knows how to turn the finances of a country round. standard stuff. Korea is not an into account developing coun-

its problems.

So with one possible cloud, the strong probability is that in three or four years' time Korea will have its balance of payments back under control, its banks refinanced, and its large companies refocused or, in the case of two or three of the weaker groups, broken up. The success story will resume, though in a more measured and cautious way. The cloud, the thing which might cause the Korean recovery to abort, is of course the security situation in North Korea but that is beyond the realms of economics. A decade hence we will still be deeply conwhatever happens. But the IMF rescue of the south will be a dis-

Japan is more complex. The yesterday means that we have no immediate reaction to Yamaichi Securities' demise, but we should not trust it even if we had, for first reactions are frequently misleading. It will be sible to make a real judgement. That said, there are several reasons to believe that the shutdown will be very positive for the Japanese financial system, and for the economy, in the long run.

For a start, Yamaichi, though the oldest of the big four securities houses, has long been the weakest. Further, the securities houses, despite their size and importance, have always had a slightly flash image in Japan compared with the banks rather in the way stockbrokers had in Britain before the First

Interest Rates

World War. So this is not like a the process of reform. But in the big bank folding.

Besides, financial systems need to be seen to punish failure to keep themselves sweet. gramme in place in Korea is bog The great problem of the Japanese financial system has been its are swept under the carpet. Admitting that a firm which is bust really is bust is a vital step towards establishing a transparent accounting system in Japanese finance. When any large financial institution fails, there will be collateral damage: other institutions not connected will be hurt. So expect a rise in the "Japan premium", the extra amount Japanese financial institutions have to pay for funds on the market. The ratings agencies will now doubtless downgrade other Japanese borrowers. But, assuming that the subsequent fall-out is managed competently by the Japanese authorities, this failure could well mark the turning point in the fortunes of Japan Inc. There is a risk that the crisis

will be mismanaged, but that is not large. If you are going to have a big firm go bust, Yamaichi is about the right size: big enough to shake people up, but not large enough to devastate the economy. It may be the biggest bankruptcy since the Second World War but it only employs 7,500 people, tiny by the standards of Japanese business. The giants of Japanese industry are as healthy as ever.

That does not mean, however, that financial markets will recover suddenly or immediately, for two reasons. The first is that Japanese markets have been kicked around quite hard and will take time to rebuild their confidence. That is a two or three-year pull.

The second and more important reason is that Japan still has large structural reforms to push through. Letting financial institutions go under (while quite properly protecting customers) is the right policy in the long term; indeed it is part of **BUSINESS**

short run, the pain of visible

failure may make structural re-

form harder to push through.

It is interesting to see the re-

sponse in the Japanese press:

many reports about individuals

who were losing their jobs

blaming the reforms of the bu-

reaucrats, rather than the weak-

nesses that resulted in failure to

reform earlier. Japan has no op-

taining support for that will be

difficult. In Britain in the 1970s

there was an attitude that if a

company went bust it was the

duty of the government to res-

cue it. Getting into people's

minds that if a company goes

bust it is the fault of the man-

agers, not the government, is a

great sea-change. While that

change is taking place, govern-

ments have to step ahead of

Nevertheless, Japan's biggest

post-war bankruptcy feels like

a turning point, and end to the

culture of concealment, the cul-

ture that required bad news to

he kept secret and regarded

markets as things to be managed

by guidance from the authori-

ties. It also marks an end to the

self-confidence of 10 years ago

when Japanese investors felt

Ten years on, then, this

whole East Asian turmoil will

doubtless seem a bump in the

progress of what will still be a

very successful region of the

world. What then will seem the

equivalent of the Japanese over-

confidence of 1987? For me, the

big news of the past couple of

weeks was the shift in opinion

in the US about European

monetary union. At last the

US opinion-formers have fo-

cused on the dangers that Eu-

rope is running in its politically

driven rush to a single currency,

Is the overconfidence of Eu-

ropean politicians the parallel

to the overconfidence of the

Japanese 10 years ago? I think

the answer is yes - but that is a

Liffe Financial Futures

story for another day.

and are voicing that concern.

they could save America.

public opinion.

tion but to press on; but main-

IOHN WILLCOCK

PEOPLE &



Stand by for a Budget leak to blow your socks off. I can exclusively reveal that the cover of Gordon Brown's Green Budget today will be coloured in vertical green stripes, shading from dark to light, and will include a picture. Gone are the boring old plain covered Budgets of yore. New Labour, New Artwork.

Yet bizarrely, prices for Budget documents are going down. The "Red Book" for Ken Clarke's 1996 Budget cost £17.90, whilst the cost of Gordon's first Budget in July this year was just £16.80.

Is this the great Global Deflation we've been hearing about?

Just as the big accountancy firms are wallowing in gold from four years of buoyant corporate activity, spare a thought for one group of people within those firms who aren't sharing in the fun: the receivers.

Our corporate undertakers inhabit a looking glass world in which bad times for us mean good times for them, and vice versa. The trouble for liquidators at the moment is, not much in the UK is going belly up.

Thus Steve Hill, an insolvency partner at Coopers & Lybrand, when asked how business was going recently, gloomily replied: "We're bumping along the bottom."

Meanwhile some receivers are going to where the action is, in the currency crisis-hit Far East. Lots of stuff is going bust out there. For instance, Stephen Adamson of Ernst & Young, who helped rescue Canary Wharf when it went bust three years ago, flew out there recently to lend a hand.

The receivers shouldn't worry. According to Simon Bevan, head of Arthur Andersen's Fraud Services Unit, the banks have been taken in by so many fraudsters that "another crop of loan disasters is on the horizon."

Mr Bevan, a former Hong Kong policeman, reckons that the UK's big six high street banks lost around £2bn to loan fraudsters in the years 1991-1996. Something to remem-

Industrial Metals

ber next time you're taken to task by your bank manager for going overdrawn.

New high

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Uh-oh. Sell everything and head for the hills. Last week's CBI Industrial Trends Survey talked of a good chance for a "soft landing" for the UK economy. The last time people were discussing a soft landing it was in the late 1980s. And we all know what happened

Another culprit is Stuart Morley, national head of research at Grimley, the property agents, writing in a research note this week:
"There is some concern ... that the soft landing envisaged may turn out to be harder than

Call me superstitious, but in order to avoid another Lawson-style recession why don't we avoid the phrase completely. "Slow-down" will

Ding dong merrily on high, in the City the bells are ringing. The Bank of England is supplying bell ringers to the Personal Investment Authority's Carol Concert to be held at St Bartholomew's Priory on Thursday 18 December.

Some carollers may hope the boys from the Bank don't pull on the bell ropes too enthusiastically. The service comes a day after the PIA Christmas Party, to be held in Cabot Hall, Canary Wharf.

The PIA's own Social Brief advertises the event with the slogan: "Find out what Scotsmen wear under their kilts ... " Pipers from the Scots Guards will welcome the revellers, and Scottish dancing will be followed by a disco. Suitably, tickets are available from one Ian Dewar. The PIA is urgently seeking experts in Scottish dancing, who can provide a bit of coaching before the big night.

Just one thought. Anyone trying to find out what is worn under the kilt of the Scots Guards is unlikely to outlive the night.

The ball's in the back of the onion bag, and the crowd go wild. Barrie Pierpoint, chief executive of Leicester City football club, is Britain's Best Boss. Barrie won the DHL Boss of the Year award yesterday at a bash at the Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park Hotel in Lon-

The twinkle-toed midfielder was nominated by his PA Michelle Newman and had to undergo "a rigorous selection process" before being presented with his gong by Nick Butcher, managing director of DHL International, the delivery service.

Leicester has just floated successfully on the stock market. The team won the Coca Cola Cup last year and were promoted to the Premier League, where they have won a reputation for doing well on a shoestring budget.

DHL adds: "By winning the competition as the UK's top boss, Barrie Pierpoint and Michelle Newman each win a holiday of their. choice." So there you go. It pays to be nice to the boss after all.

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Regulators to investigate selling of new high-commission pensions

City regulators are to investigate a new type of pension policy, which is attracting £1 bn a year of investments. There are concerns that thousands of the policies may have been mis-sold. Andrew Verity reports.

The Personal Investment Authority said it had received evidence that advisers who sell so-called income draw-down plans were being tempted to market the products by the prospect of large commissions. This marketing approach could be against the best interests of their clients.

A PIA spokeswoman said: "We now have evidence of high commissions which might give rise to bias in the advice given. We are looking into how the product has

been sold." Financial advisers have, according to industry sources, received sums as high as £30,000 when clients have put put £500,000 into a single income drawdown plan, a type of personal pension aimed at wealthy investors.

Industry sources fear that high comnissions will take such a large chunk of capital out of the plans that there is a high risk investors will lose money over the life of the plan - even if investments do well. Investors will only benefit if the plans grow faster than 11 per cent a year. Historically, performance has been lower than this.

Income draw-down plans are sold to investors who are about to retire but want to put off buying an annuity, a policy which pays a guaranteed income from retirement

the plans in 1995. The move followed complaints that pensioners were getting incomes thousands of pounds lower than they would

have received if annuity rates were better. The income draw-down plans were intended to allow retiring investors to draw a variable income from a pension fund without buying an annuity. The money could then be invested until the investors were forced by the rules to buy an annuity at the

However, independent advisers are instead selling the plans on the basis that clients do not want to swap their capital for an annuity, which cannot be passed on to their heirs. Concerns have been raised that some advisers have been selling the products because they can extract up to 6 per cent of a client's pension fund in com-Kenneth Clarke, former Chancellor of mission. With the alternative, an annuity, the Exchequer, enabled the introduction of commission is just 1 per cent.

Problems for Polly Pocket knock Bluebird

Shares in Bluebird Toys lost almost 20 per cent of their value yesterday when the company issued its second profits warning this year.

The group said Mattel, the US toy giant which distributes Bluebird's Poliy Pocket toy range (pictured left) outside the UK, would not now be distributing the brand at all in North America next year. It plans to re-launch the collectable toy range in 1999 instead.

Mattel has suffered from overstocking of the Polly Pocket range in recent years and is keen to clear stock and reinvigorate the brand.

Bluebird said the impact of this marketing change would mean current year results we likely to be slightly below market expectations. Analysts are now forecasting profits of £5m-£6m instead of a range of £6.5m-£8.5m. Bluebird shares fell 18.5p to 81.5p. Investment column, page 24

Microsoft concedes to Brussels after rival's complaint

Microsoft, the US computer software giant run by Bill Gates, was yesterday found guilty of infringing European competition law after a complaint from a rival California-

based software group. The European Commission said it had obtained concessions from Microsoft that would enable the rival, Santa Cruz Operation (SCO), to develop a competing software product.

The announcement followed a ruling earlier this year from Brussels that the enforcement of an existing agreement between Microsoft and SCO infringed European competition law because it hampered the smaller company's ability to compete.

Microsoft has now agreed to change a 1987 contract which SCO had complained restricted its ability to develop a future

version of its Unix operating system software for Intel-based server computers.

The commission said in a statement that the contract required SCO to base its Unix products on work done by Microsoft in 1987 and to pay a set royalty for licences based on the same work. It said this prevented SCO from competing fairly with Microsoft's MS

Office operating system.

Microsoft has been under the eye of the EU and the US Justice Department since 1994 when the the two authorities joined forces to obtain changes to its licensing practices.

The commission's investigation of Santa Cruz's complaint was only one of about half a dozen Microsoft-related anti-trust cases pending in the European Union, an EU

ScottishPower links up with trade unions

ScottishPower yesterday stepped up its drive into the emerging domestic gas and electricity markets with a deal which could give access to 7 milon trade union members.

The link up with Union Energy, the fuel company set up by the Trades Union Congress, follows a similar partnership between ScottishPower and the Automobile Association. ScottishPower will be given sole responsibility for supplying fuel and billing customers in a fiveyear contract, with Union Energy organising marketing and

retaining its brand name. "The cost for us of becoming a fully fledged supplier was just too prohibitive. We were always clear that we needed a partnership with an existing supplier," said Mike Jones, chairman of Union Energy.

ScottishPower was chosen from a shortlist of six bidders, most of which were regional electricity companies, and won partly because its workforce was

ighly unionised. Union Energy said it hoped to peach 500,000 homes from British Gas and the regional electricity companies over the next three years.

The 7 million UK trade unionists speak for 4.5 million homes, with annual bills worth

Chris Godsmark

TBI shortlisted to run Luton airport

TBI, the airports and property group, has been put on the short list of bidders to run Luton airport. A preferred bidder is likely to be announced by the end of the year. TBI is also in talks with Thomson, aimed at enticing the UK's largest tour operator back to its Belfast airport. TBI has launched a multi-million pound redevelopment of the Northern Irish airport. The company announced a rise in pre-tax profits to £14.1m (£9.7m) for the six months to 30 September.

Majestic plans to double

Majestic Wine, the UK's largest wine warehouse chain, announced pre-tax profits of £1.026m (£465,000) in the six months to September. Tim How, Majestic's chief executive, said the British were drinking more wine and paying higher prices for it. "People are becoming more adventurous and broadening their palates," he said. The group plans to double the size of its 69-strong chain.

Big profit at GB Railways

GB Railways, which runs trains from London to East Anglia, has become the latest group to announce a large profit after buying a piece of the privatised British Rail. The group made £2.1m in the six months to September due to strong passenger growth and lower-than-anticipated restructuring costs.

Software costs a write-off

Companies face having to write off costs associated with modifying their computer software to deal with the millennium problem to the profit and loss account under proposals to be published today by the Accounting Standards Board's Urgent Issues Taskforce. The only exceptions will be where a company already has an accounting policy for capitalising software costs and where the expenditure increases an asset's value rather than just maintaining its usefulness.

Hall & Tawse sold for £20m

Alfred McAlpine, the construction group, has sold Hall & Tawse, its regional contracting business, to Mansell, a contracting company, for £20m. Hall & Thwse last year returned an operating profit of £1.7m on a turnover of £214.7m.

The New Tudor Chronograph, around £1,000.



Available in a choice of black or steel bezel, with either a black, white, red, green, silver or blue dial with either a leather strap or steel bracelet. Waterproof to fifty metres, scratchproof glass, with a Swiss made, self-winding mechanical movement. A comprehensive range of Tudor models and further information is available from: South Man Services Chiff of Respublic

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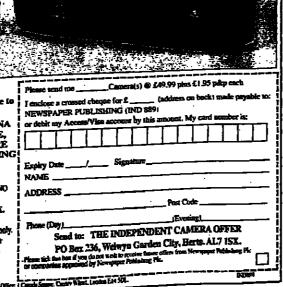
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SAILING

Humphries steers in his dream team

Swedish Match won the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race, with a Briton at the helm.

lt was a personal triumph that should never have happened, for, as Stuart Alexander writes from Fremantle. Matt Humphries' race looked to have finished in Cape Town.

Matt Humphries always wanted to lead the charge through the Southern Ocean and be the first Briton into Fremantle. However, never in his wildest dreams did he expect to do so

at the helm of Swedish Match. The 26-year-old Humphries thought his race would get no further than Cape Town, where his hopes disintegrated in the financial wreckage and withdrawal of Neil Barth's America's Challenge.

It looked as though he would be left on the dock when the second leg started, but a last-minute transfer to Swedish Match turned not only into a triumph for a crew who finished eighth out of 10 boats on the first leg from Southampton, but a personal victory snatched from the ashes of a burned-out campaign.

Humphries hardly knew the men he was joining; they had been together for nearly a year and did not know much about him. "They are hard men, so to join a team like that is potentially very difficult," he said. "I kept wondering if I had done the right thing. Fifteen days and 5,000 miles is a long time at sea and we were going to go though hell together.

Humphries should not have worried. "From day one it all came together very well," he says. "Their acceptance made me feel I should give as much as I have got. It was a kind of gratitude, almost. The result was I probably worked harder on this leg than on any in any other yacht race in my life.

In some ways it was like joining Manchester United and finding a whole new way of playing the game. At the same time, a helmsman is always under scrutiny. The crew want to know if they can produce speed without risking their lives too much, while they are aware that the onboard computer is monitoring their performance against previous efforts in the same conditions.

As if peer and personal pressure was not enough, the conditions in which Swedish Match raced were as tough as

"I think," said Innovation

Kvaerner's skipper, Knut

Frostad, "there may still be

some blood down the side."

Safely tied up here in Freman-

tle with enough points from sec-

ond place for the leg from

Cape Town to give him the over-

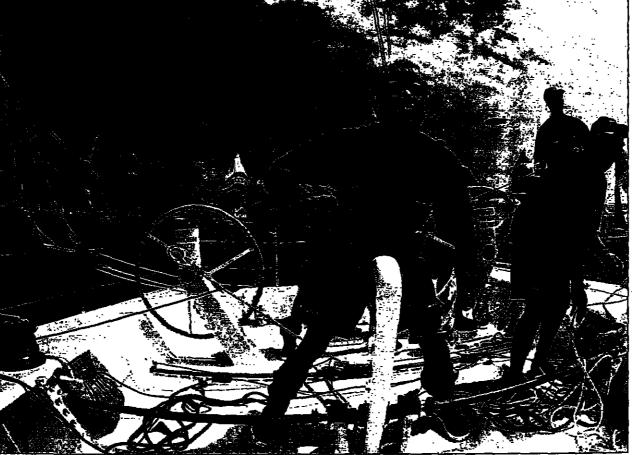
all lead in the Whitbread Race,

it was time for the Norwegian

whale on the starboard side of

A serious encounter with a

to breathe a sigh of relief.



Matt Humphries muscles in on some second-leg winch work aboard Swedish Match

were not just hard, they were relentless, and not just for me, for everyone," Humphries said. "There was no respite, no time to re-energise." And all the time the style of both the skipper Gunnar Krantz and co-skipper

frames in the bow were cracked

and had to be repaired using an

epoxy kit. It also mean that for

24 hours Frostad had to ease

back, change course, and aban-

don a plan to go south of the

Kerguelen Islands as repairs

were completed and urgent ra-

dio telephone conversations

took place with yacht designers.

repair, "We were not sure how

much we could load up the

The boat will take a week to

Frostad not fazed by trouble and strife on the ocean wave

ving the boat.

These guys are workaholics. nothing like the occasionally more laid-back attitude of some British crews," Humphries said. "Gurra wants 100 per cent the whole time, driving the crew on

cel van Triest, who said he

would not, anyway, have taken

the decision to break away

from the pack in the way which

had given the leg winner,

Lawrie Smith's Silk Cut

should finish fourth today, but

third overnight was his old crew-

man Paul Standbridge, now

skipper of Dennis Conner's

Toshiba. That yacht, with a time

of 16 days 5 hr 27min 12sec, had

the pulpit, most of the starboard

Swedish Match, the break.

whether we had the energy or the boat back up to speed. Then not. He and Erle work well towe tidy up, or eat, or get some gether. Both put boat speed as a priority. We are not there to cruise around the world at 90 per cent of potential. "If something goes wrong

then the first thing we do is get

stanchions and the stern quar-

ter pushpit ripped out and crew-

man David Allen suffering from

suspected cracked ribs. The

boat, he said, had been given the

hortzontal fest a few times.

WhiteHead Round the World Race (second leg. 4,500 sales, cape fives to fremerdie): Laiset positions: 1 Swedsh Match (See) & Krantz Instruct; 2 Innovestor (Neaner (Not) & Frustad 2 Enistruct; 3 Toenba (US) P Standardge finished; 4 Six Out (GS) L Smith 102 miles to firlet; 5 ET Language (Swe) P Cayand 183; 6 Cheeste Reching (US) M Fecher 358; 7 Merit Cup (Monaco) & Deton 607; 8 ET Education (Swe) C Quillou 720; 9 Brunst Sunergy (Neth) H Bouscholte 836.

- Stuart Alexander

horizontal test a few times.

sleep. Everything was done very smoothly and even when there's chaos it's smooth chaos. There is never a raised voice. You know what you have to do." Humphries admits there are

times when everyone wonders how much more they can take. But there was never any temptation to ease off. Even when they had a lead of 300 miles, the pressure to increase the gap on Innovation Kvaerner was always there.

The crew of Swedish Match feel that they have now been blooded and will know how to produce the power again. "It was only one leg out of nine, but having experienced victory, we want to do it again," Krantz said.

The dream for Humphries now is to be first home on the third leg to Sydney.

Monty presses for rankings rethink

Colin Montgomerie, the European No I, called for the world rankings to become more representative after European nations stole the show at the World Cup. Andy Fameli reports from Klawah Island, South Carolina.

First the Ryder Cup win at Valderrama, now a superb showing in the World Cup here. These are good times for European golf. Not that you would know from the world rankings.

Padraig Harrington, world No 78, and Paul McGinley, No 101, brought Ireland's second World Cup title on Sunday - by five strokes. Scotland were second, one ahead of the Americans, Open champion Justin Leonard and USPGA winner Davis Love: Germany, Wales, Spain and England took the next four places.

In the individual competition, for the International Trophy. Colin Montgomerie, at 22 under, beat Alex Cejka by two and Ignacio Garrido by three to win for the first time on American soil. Seven of the top-eight were European. Sweden were forced out of the team competition when Per-Ulrik Johansson fell sick again on Saturday night.

"European golf is on an up right now," Montgomerie, the five-times European No1, said. "After the triumph in the Ryder Cup, we've a lot of talent in Europe. It's great we can finish first second, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh. We've had a re-emergence of good young players. McGinley, with two wins in six weeks, is 30; Harrington 26.2 Cejka is 26 and Garrido 25. Thea there are the likes of Thomas Bjorn, Darren Clarke, Lee West-

PROMOTOR FIRST

SEET STREET, P.

wood and Andrew Coltart. od and Andrew Coltart.
"But we have a problem with.... the world rankings," added Montgomerie. "When the World Golf Championship events start in 1999, we are only going to have eight or nine players in them and that is a backwards step. We deserve more points for European events."

This has been discussed in players' meetings but only eight Europeans are in the top 50 in the world, led by the 34-year-old Montgomerie in sixth place. His partner, Raymond Russell, whose contribution to Scotland's 26 under par was four under, had a virtuoso display to learn from as Monty closed with three 66s.

You'd be stupid not to play attention," Russell said. "It is. not the birdies he makes, but the bogeys he doesn't. He doesn't make any mistakes. He makes the game look very simple." Sweden's Annika Sorenstam completed the year the way she: started it - with a win. Sorenstam parred the third hole of a sudden-death play-off for her sixth victory of the season at the US LPGA Tour Championship in Las Vegas on Sunday. Sorenstam also secured US LPGA

Player of the Year honours for

the second time in three years.

Binaghi hit by lightning

Alberto Binaghi, the Italian Dunhill Cup player, was hit by lightning yesterday as the PGA European Tour Qualifying School was again affected by storms on the Costa del Sol.

"I thought I was going to die.

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 24 NOVEMBER

I passed out," the 31-year-old Binaghi, who was struck afterplay had been suspended, said.
He was taken to hospital for

My heart was pumping so fast,

a check-up and later returned to the Guadalmina clubhouse.

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MGFIELD

PHILIPS



Today we publish the latest results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The player scores are for all League games played until Sunday November 23rd. The league table includes all scores up to November 9th. The monthly winner will receive a pair of tickets to an England home international, while the overall winner gets a trip to the 1998 world cup in France.

the boat meant that three ring boat," said the navigator Mar-

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e.: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in The Independent and repeated the following Sunday in the Independent on Sunday.



INDEPENDENT FANTASY FO

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46	Mr A Mitchell	The Eye For It	500	450 Henchoz If you would like to	know more about Pl	ilips' range of lighting p	roducts plea	se call 0181- 6	06 1966. Terms and co	oditions as pre-	viously pu	• ••		3.0 "currently out of man. The Energy Saver Lighthu	

ميكنا من الاجل 29/RACING

Grey Man should increase his majority

One Man, who has his second outing of the season today, seems destined never to go down as one of the great horses. He is the parallel of a supreme athlete gifted at 300m - caught between distances. Richard Edmondson reports.

The local MP may not be the big wheel he once was, but the most prestigious race in his Hunt- their stamina range. ingdon constituency reaches the peak of its popularity this afof a surprise that Don King has not been spotted in the Fens this has dodged the hail at so many week attempting to get a pro-

Martha's Son, Viking Flagship and One Man borne to the course by their attendants.

The meeting immediately puts a lie to the suggestion that Cheltenham in March (and possibly Liverpool the following month) is the only place to witness top-class jumping that simmers the blood.

The Peterborough is run over a compromise distance of two and a half miles. One Man would prefer a little further, while his two rivals will be getting towards the extremity of

There is an argument for believing that Viking Flagship, ternoon. It has been something who now has the clanking breast pocket of a field marshal, theatres of war that he may have motional slice of a Peterbor- become shellshocked, Howevough Chase which sees er, as tenacity and an unbreak-

able spirit are at the core of his year, followed by the Melling following connections' belated success, it would not be entirely inappropriate to voice this opinion when his choppers are anywhere near you. The 10year-old has been counted out more times than Frank Bruno, yet on his reappearance at Exeter there was a demonstration

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: One Man (Huntingdon 3.10) NB: Solo Gent (Huntingdon 2.10)

he was not quite ready for decommissioning with a smooth defeat of stablemate Mulligan.

Viking Flagship, though, has something to find with Martha's Son on their recent encounters. Tim Forster's gelding captured the Queen Mother Champion Chase at the Festival earlier this

Chase at Liverpool, where he shoulder-charged the first to give the boys a chance but still managed to sweep home. On yards, especially at Cheltenham. both pillages, the Viking was among the victims.

Aintree represented only Martha's Son's second coma mischief in this contest in 1995. He does though have form on the track, having won three times at Huntingdon, including this race, in 1994.

One Man, on the other hand, makes his debut at Brampton, which should not be excessively detrimental as he routinely runs well on tight courses. The King George VI Chase at Kempton and Queen Mother Champion Chase at the Festival are now the main ingredients of his programme

recognition that their beast does not get the Gold Cup distance of 31/4 miles and 110

Even if One Man jumps over the rails and lands on top of his owner's car this afternoon. it will be unlikely to rile John pleted race since he did himself Hales. Mr Golden Bear Toys has been having rather a remunerative time of it recently as his company has been in charge of distributing little Teletubbies. There was no paunch, however, when One Man again won the Charlie Hall Chase at

Wetherby on his seasonal debut. The nine-year-old is at his best before a new calendar is pinned up on the wall, and the grey ONE MAN (3.10) has more than the coincidence of running in John Major's homeland to recommend him.

Elsewhere on the card, there is reason to support animals proven in this environment. Solo Gent (next best 2.10) will be better now he is returned to the arena where he has won four

times. Wamdha (3.40) too bas a course record of five wins, two seconds and and two thirds from nine runs and can win the race named in her honour. Oi Mother (2.40) can complete the set and a hat-trick, particularly as the Nicholson-Maguire alliance is going so

Worcester too gets a rare visitation from the television cameras and Big Ben Dun (3.25) can advertise his expertise on his reappearance, as he did for the only time last season. In addition, they like Eulogy (2.25) at Richard Rowe's yard. We should too.

HUNTINGDON 2.10: COOLE HILL, who beat Naughty Future by 11/4 lengths in a handicap chase over 3m 1f at Market Rasen last time, remains on a fair handicap mark and can follow up. Mister Blake and Solo Gent look the main dangers.

2.40: BESSIE BROWNE looked as this sort of distance would suit her when finishing nine lengths fourth to Cherrymore over 2m 110yds at Newbury. He should go well here. Hat-trick-seeking Oi Mother and Tempestuous Lady may pose most problems.

3.10: MARTHA'S SON stamped himself the best 2m-21/m mile chaser in the country with victories in the 2m Queen Mother Champion Chase and 21/2 m Melling Chase last season. He will be very hard to beat if anywhere near his peak for this, his seasonal debut. One Man, whose best form is at 3m, again seemed to be stopping noticeably at the end of his successful reappearance in the Charlie Hall Chase over 3m If at Wetherby. A bigger danger may be Viking Flagship, who quickened up smartly to beat stablemate Mulligan by five lengths in the Haldon Gold Cup Chase over 2m1f110yds at Excter.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

3.40: BOLD STATEMENT, who ran Miss Roberto to half a length over 2m at Worcester on his reappearance, can go one better. New Inn, with crack claimer Seamus Durack in the saddle, looks

the danger. WORCESTER

2.25: The stamina-laden Mene sonic must be feared if the early pace is strong. Edgemoor Prince won over 2'/miles at Bangor last time but will be more at home at today's distance. EULOGY is highly regarded by his trainer and jumped Ascor's stiff fences finently earlier this month. He should prove too good for these rivals, even though Flying Gunner is from a yard flying high at present.

3.25: BEATSON hit top form at this time last year and prefers give in the ground these days. At Wincanton last week Fall Of Bounce was close up at half way when falling heavily in a better race than this. His jumping has often let him down. Mud-loving Poucher would be dangerous if the going

HUNTINGDON

1.40 Dantes Cavalier 2.10 COOLE HILL (nap)

2.40 Bessie Browne 3.10 Martha's Son 3.40 Bold Statement (nb)

GOING: Good.

| Right-hand, level course, Run-in 200yds.
| Right-hand, level course, Run-in 200yds.
| Course is at junction of A1 and A604. Huntingdon station (service from London, Kingte Cross)
| ADMISSION: Members £12; Peddock £3; Course £4, CAR PARK: Free
| LEADING THAINERS: K Balley 23-66 (34.9%), J Gifford 15-67 (22.4%), 6 Hubbard 12-57
| 211%), T Forester 11-49 (22.4%), D Nicholsans 13-40 (25%), N Handerson 8-33 (24.2%),
| LEADING JOCKEYS: N Williamson 13-66 (22.7%), R Durmoodly 14-79 (17.7%), S Mic| Neill 11-60 (18.3%), A Maguire 11-68 (16.2%), M A Fitzgerald 9-71 (12.7%),
| FAVOURITES (FIVE-YEAR RECORD): 207 wins from 476 races (43.5%),
| BI IMKERED FIRST TIME: Canary Stue (10)

	==		THOSE CHIRTY DIED (LIC)	
	0	.10	HOUGHTON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE \$2,375 added 3m 2f Penalty Value \$2,007	(CLASS
ı	1	254013	BLITE GOVERNOR (29) (Western Solvenis Lich N. 1 ammard R 12 n	
Ì	2	543365	KUPPANCUER (USA) (25) (G Willishim) Marc N Marca day 5 11 15)	Die A Wilesie
ı	3	100	ALIASI CHRESI (16) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 6 11 5	20
ı	4		II O CATANEL (20) UNIS LIBOURIN MORAN W G NCTIRNAY S TI A	سے وا
ı	5	UP-506	IOP SRIPPER (12) AY G GREGNEDA V Gregness & 11 A	Mr. I Through
Į	2 3 4 5 8 7	1112-313	COUR HED OR OR P.C. Hours R Havel 4 vt 4	
Į	7	233530	MILZIG (USA) (12) (Jack Joseph) J Joseph B 11 3	Goldetein

23530 MfL236 (USA) (12) (Lack Joseph) Jioseph B 18 3 JGolds
26FP-0 SINGLESOLE (18) (C) (Mrs P M Sty) Mrs P Sty 2 11 0 W M
3084-4 VISCOUNT ILLUY (S) (C F C. Jackson) C Jackson 12 11 0 R Thorn
P6-000 KILCARNEE BAY (16) (G Monts) P Bowen 7 10 13 M WBL
43200 BRIGHT SAPPHERE (38) (H J Janus) J R Best 11 10 9 B McGan
64P45 (USA) LEPH WRICH (707) (Mrs C S Partigoth G Mondred B 10 8 L
43453 JOKER JACK (6) (D) (Richard Dean) R Dean 12 10 7 X Abr
1/KDP CANARY BLUE (R8) (P W Habit) P Hairt 6 10 4 E Hasbad
0-400U LIFE OF BRIAN (16) (John Wilyre) J Whys B 10 4 Mir R Wal
54/F0 THE WEATHERMAN (213) (Airs Giona Jessop) A Jessop 9 10 1 R Mirs
164-73 SPA KELLY (S8) (J A Pictering J P Cleaning 8 10 0 Sophie Mills
00FP-8 MRLLY LE MOSS (6) (R J Eddey) R Eddey 8 10 0 L Cumm
P4P-PP CUMBERLAND YOUTH (8) (Miss C C E Cose) Miss C Carol 6 10 0 D J Karsan
20 declared —

Meritan Ways.

Send Youth 9et 5tb.

BETTING: 4-1 its Grand, \$1-2 Alias Chubb, 7-1 Viscount Tulky, 8-1 Elite Governor, 10-1 Baylord

BETTING: 4-1 its Grand, \$1-2 Alias Chubb, 7-1 Viscount Tulky, 8-1 Elite Governor, 10-1 Baylord

BETTING: 4-1 its Grand, \$1-2 Alias Chubb, 7-1 Viscount Tulky, 8-1 Elite Governor, 10-1 Baylord

6: Wr Flutt	a 10 10 10 S MicNelli 4-1 jt fav (J Tuck) 14 mm	
.40	HEALTH-SPA WATER NOVICE CHASE (CL added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value 23,394	ASS E) £4,075
PR31/A	FATHER FORTUNE (16) (C) (Paul Townsley) Mrs P Townsley 9 11 9	Mr P Townsley
P6P3/0	CLEVER REMARK (9) (Mrs Jun Smith) J Old 8 11 5	
3/13-3	CREMISON KING (11) (Simon Seinsbury) T Forster 6 1 5	
2142-3	CANTES CANALER (11) (W H Done) O Generatio 7 ff 5	
154P2-	DONBENGTON (221) (B T Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 7 ft 5	A McCenthy
PP-PZP	HIGHLAND FLAME (6) (A G Binchmons) A Blackmons 8 11 5	P Henley (3)
<i>5</i> 0-63	JAVELIN COOL (13) (3 A Hubbard) G Hubbard 6 1 5	R Guest
523	LETS BE FRANK (20) (D) (Mrs M M Stobert) N Chence 6 11 5	G Bradley
	1.40 PH31/A P6P3/0 3/5-3 54P2- PP-P2P 50-63	a Kolly, 20-1 others 1: 40 HEALTH-SPA WATER NOVICE CHASE (CL added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value 23,394 PRIME FATHER FORTURE (16) (C) (Faul Yoursley) Ms P Townsley 9 11 9 P673/0 CLEVER REMARK (9) (Mn Jin Smith) J Old 8 11 5 3/33 CRINGSON KING (11) (Simon Serieby) T Forsier 8 11 5 1242 OAMTES CANADER (17) (M P Dong I) Generate 7 15 15492 DOMENGTON (221) (B T Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 7 11 5 150-83 JAMEJIN (200 (15) (B A Blockmoot) A Blockmon 8 11 5 152-3 LETS BE FRANK (20) (D) (Ms M M Stobert) N Cherce 6 11 5

2.	10	NORMANS CROSS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C4 E) £4,075 added 3m Penalty Value £3,023
1		SOLO GENT (20) (CD) (The Eastbury Racing Club) A P Jones 8 11 13
2	4242-1	COOLE HELL (12) (Messrs 8 Winfield and J Potter) D Nicholson 6 to 17
3		OCEAN LEADER (14) (C) (D) (Sr Poler Globings) Mrs D Heine 10 11 10
4		PERSIAN SWORD (282) (Ford Farm Recing) D Nicholson 11 11 8
5		HIGH LEARSE (10) (Ethiard Harvey) A H Hervey 7 11 2
6		NORTHERN VILLAGE (199) (L.P Dece) LA Dace 10 11 1 L Aspell (3)
		MISTER BLAKE (25) (D) (W D Edwards) R Lee 7 to 10
Ė		JOM VALENTINE (29) (Mrs T Pricherd) Dr P Prached 11 109
9		CYRILL HENRY (17) (Champagne & Oreans Partnership) Simon Earle & 10.4 P Holley
10		RYTON RUN (5) (C) (D) (W J Odel) Mrs S Odel 12 10 0
		= 10 declared =
10-1-		and the Toronto Comments to the Comments

Minimum weight: 10st True handicap weight: Ryton Run 9st 6tb.
BETTHIRC: 7-4 Coole Hill, 5-1 Minimum Bistine, 6-1 Solo Gent, 7-1 Ocean Lendar, 8-1 High Laurie, 10-1
Persian Sword, 12-1 Jim Velentinu, 14-1 Korthary Village, 16-1 Cyrill Heary, 25-1 Ryton Run
1996: Solo Gent 7 1 6 S McNeil 7-2 (A P Jones) 7 ran
FORM GUIDE

1996: Solo Gent 7 11 6 S McNeil 7-2 (A P Jones) 7 mm
FORM GUIDE
Solo Gent has shown a liking for this course but will need to be better than ever to derly top weight and preference is for the up-and-coming COOLE HILL, who stayed on far too well for Naughty Future and the rest over three miles and one furions at Market Resen 12 days ago. This combest might be a shade tougher, but she looked a decent hendicapper in the making on her chasing debut at Ludlow (2m 4f) lest February - running Telicherry to a neck. There is a chance that lack of experience will count against her, but she has far more scope for improvement than most of these. Ocean Leader, lightly reced in the past two years, shaped well enough in novice chases two seasons ago (runner-up to King Lucifer at Nottingham and Lou Vel at Folkestone). He was a well-beater last of three to Persian View at Ludlow two weeks ago but looked a bit burly and should do better now. Northern Village is a one-time fair funder who has claims on his humberchase defeat of Avostar at Towcester lest March, but he tends to run in smatches. Millage Basson when out of the handicap proper, but he is up against it on the balance of form.

	2.40	(CLASS E) £3,000 added filles & mares	4
		2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £2,460	
1		CH MOTHER (19) (Alden Murphy And Nick Sketon) D Nicholson 5 to 5	
2	264-5	ARDENEIAR (15) (T.J. Wyszi) J.W. Payne 5 to 12	خات
3	314-44	BESSIE BROWNE (13) (G A Hubbard) G Hubbard 5 TO 12	ر وي
4		COTTAGE BAY (1S) (WA Bellett) W Bellett 5 to 12 R 8	
5	430/0-	KENTFORD TINA (\$77) (D Bare) J Mulina 6 10 12.	Gi.
6	345/0-	MADAM MUCK (254) (The Co-operiss) N Twiston-Davies 6 to 12	ala
7	34/0-0	SECOND FIDDLE (6) (O Brennan) O Brennan 7 to 12	(0.21
8	D40-6	SWEET LITTLE BRIAR (10) (G C Bravery) G Bravery 6 10 12	MDO
		-TANNANIARBLER (10) (Mis P Roberto) Mis P Roberto 5 to 12	
10	111-	TEMPESTUCIUS LADY (240) (Mrs. E Roberts) N Handerson 6 10 12 M A Fitz	giri
		- 10 declared -	_

BETTING: 7-4 Ol Mother, 9-4 Tempestrous Ledy, 1 ous Ledy, 11-2 Besele Browne, 8-1 Mediam Mack, 1 Briar, Kentlord Tina, 20-1 Tawny Waybler, 33-1 Cot FORM GUIDE

TEMPESTUDUS LADY, a winning point-to-pointer in Ireland, has come with a good reputation and she could be a notch above O' Mother in receipt of 7th. Although Or Mother gained her first win of the season in a Worcester bumper back in June, she looks like making a mark in decent company judged on her recent follow-up win over hundles at Towcester. The form of that race has taken a joft or two, but O' Mother led on the bridle two out and needed rousing along only after a slow jump at the last. Beaste Browne is going to win over hundles judged on her Newbury fourth to Cherymore but may have to wait for an easier change.

Selection: TEMPESTIADIS LADY

WS!	t for an e	sasier chance.	Selection: TEMPESTUOUS LADY
3	.10	PETERBOROUGH CHASE \$29,000 added 2m 4f 110yo	(Grade 2) (CLASS A) C4 is Pen. Value £18,038
f	2/F11-	MARTHA'S SON (235) (CD) (M Ward-Thi	omas) 7 Forster 10 ft 10 R Femant
2	128P-1	ONE MAN (24) (D) (J Hales) G Richards (9 11 10R Durwoody
3	1335-1	VIKING FLAGSHEP (21) (D) (Roset) Food	s Limited) D Nicholson 10 11 13 A Magnine
4	4255	CAMETROY (FH) (248) (D) (Jim Lewis) D	Nicholson 7 ft 1R Thornion
5	3U2-2F	THE LAST FLING (IS ID) (Michael Jackson	n Bloodstock Ltd) Mrs S Smith 7 11 1 _R Genest
6	/3F1F	THEMOREYOUKNOW (180) (M H Westo	n) M Weston 8 ti 1

BETTING: 13-8 Marthe's Son, 15-8 One Man, 9-4 Viting Flagship, 20-1 The Last Fling, 33-1 Ca

100-1 Themoreyoutknow 1898: Dublin Piyer 10 11 1 B Powell 4-9 few (T Forster) 6 ran FORM GUIDE

MARTHA'S SON, beaten a neck by Trased in this two years ago when an odds-on favourite, can go one better. Dual King George Vi Chase victor One Man and Viking Flagship – the dual champion two-maior as well as a Meiling Chase (Aintree) winner – are the dangers. Martha's Son completed that difficult spring double last season and beet Viking Flagship into third at both Cheltenham and Aintree. His defeat of Strong Promise at the latter venue underlines that he is at least as good over two miles and a half as he is over two. Viking Flagship looked almost as good as ever when beating Mulligan on his return to action in what looked quite stickly ground at Easter three weeks ago. One Man has a vulnerable look here if last season's defeat by Strong Promise in Ascots Cornet Chase is taken as an accurate guide, but this flat track will be in his favour. The recent Weitherby win ensures that One Man is primed for batis. The Last Fling would have less to do in a handicap and his jumping still leaves a lot to be desired. Camilrov and Thamoreyouthow look outclessed.

3	.40	WAMDHA HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) C4 £7,500 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £5,321
1	440 P	TIBETAN (17) (D) (Ms Wendy Brown) Lady Herres 5 12 0R Democdy
2	2004-2	NEW DAN (B) (D) (len K I Stewart) S Gollings 6 11 9
3	223	BARFORD SOVEREIGN (16) (C) (D) (BF) (B. II) J Fanshave 5 11 9 M A Fitzgerald
4	55 40	LEAR JET (USA) (38) (D) (Godorphal Racing Parmership) Both Jones 4 11 8 G Bradley
5	1211-2	BOLD STATEMENT (13) (D) (SP) (Courless Cadogari) T Forsiar 5 ft 8N Williamson
8	62-063	PRIZERIGHTER (5) (CC) (J Mitor) B Llevellyn 6 til 3
7	2P-1	SPRENG SAINT (S) (D) (Activid & Carol Staired) Simon Earle 8 to 11 R Thorston (S)
8	29424-	DEAR DO (272) (D) (C J Edwards) N Handarson 10 (D 0
9	04021F	WAMIDHA (35) (CCR (BF) (T R Protei) K Moroson 7 (0 0
10	00-452	BARTHOLOGIEW FAIR (10) (Devid L Bowlett) C Dwyer 6 10 0
		48 dealered

Minimum weight: 10st True handicen weights: Wendrie 9st 13th, Batholemew Feir 9st 11th. BETTRIG: 11-4 Bold Statement, 5-1 Barbord Sovereign, 11-2 Wandin, 13-2 Bartholomew F Sehrt, 7-1 New Int., 8-1 Tilbetan, 16-1 Dear Do, Lear Jet, 20-1 Prizzilighter 1996: Teinein 5 12 0 A P McCoy 8-13 tav (T Forster) 7 ren . FORM GUIDE

Warndhat has won five times here (a few about and shirts as well) but BARFORD SOV-ERISIGN should beat Spring Seitet. Although Spring Seit loves soft going (rain likely) and won weit at Towcester rine days ago on his debut for Strom Earle, he may be best when neetly frast. Berford Sovereign, better for her Warwick third to Star Market, has edged up the handlesp after lest season's consistent efforts (time wins), but the is game,

RACING'S FUTURES MARKET .

Following his 11-length victo- Barton Bank, runner up to ry over General Wolfe - with Endine back in fourth and Go Ballistic pulled up - in the Edward Hanmer Memorial Limited Handicap Chase over 3m at Haydock last Wednesday Suny Bay, who gets just a 4lb penalty for that, is a top-priced 4-1 favourite with William Hill Coral go just 3-1.

One Man at Wetherby last time, is 14-1 with the Tote -Ladbrokes go 9-1 - while the progressive Indian Tracker is 25-1 with Ladbrokes - the Tote go just 14-1. In today's 3.40 at Hunting-

don, Prizelighter is 25-1 with the Tote - William Hill go 16-1. - Ian Davies

Horse (Fraine/weight)	Coral	William Hill	Ladinolos	<u>Tk</u>
Surry Bay (C Brooks/11st8b)	3-1	4-1	7-2	100-
Djaddah (F Cournen/10st10b)	6-1	6-1	7-1	
Basijo (D Nicholson/11st2lb)	8-1	6-1	95-1	
Time For A Run (£ OGrady(iri)/10st)	7-1	7-1	8-1	
Cooms Hill (W Derwis/11st 10b)	doubliss	10-1	12-1	1
Trying Again (D Gandolfo/10st 10fb)	12-1	10-1	9-1	12
Sarton Benk (D Nicholson/1 str3b)	12-1	12-1	9-1	14
General Wolfe (T Forsier/10si6fb)	10-1	14-1	10-1	1
Endipe (M Pipe/OstSb)	14-1	16-1	14-1	1
Beiznord King (P Nichols/11st4lb)	14-1	16-1	16-1	2
Celtic Abbey (Miss Veneta Williams/10)	16-1	76-1	20-1	1
Cool Dawn (R Alner/10st)	20-1	16-1	20-1	1
Asmo Acason (Al Camacho/10si8lb)	25-1	25-1	20-1	2
Indian Tracker (M Pros/10st2b)	16-1	20-1	25-1	1
Samine (P Hobbs/9si6ib)	20-1	25-1	25-1	2
Ciel De Brion (F Dourner (Fr)/Est13b)	33-1	33-1	33-1	2
Go Ballistic (J O'Shea/fist1lb)	33-1	25-1	25-1	2
Hermes Harvest (D Williams/9st2fb)	33-1	33-1	33-1	2
Inchesillach (J King/10st)	20-1	25-1	33-1	3
Yorkshire Gale U Gillord/10st4b)	- 33-1	25-1	25-1	2
Oh So Risky (D Elsworth/10st)	38-1	33-1	40-1	3
Bell Staffboy (J DShee/9st13fb)	50-1	33-1	40-1	5
Grange Brake (N Twiston-Davies/9st/8	§ 66-1	66-1	86-1	5
Maccamarachenci (E Hales(Iri)/8stSb)	100-1	100-1	50-1	10

WORCESTER

- 3

- 7.7

2. IL 27

1.25 Barton Green 2.55 Three Farthings 3.25 Beatson 1.55 Who Am I 2.25 Eulogy 3,55 Saxon Duke

GORNG: Soft (Good to Soft in places):

List-hand course, level with long straights, easy turns and a one furiong run-in.

Course is on the A445 by the River Severn. Wordster (Foregate St): station im. AD-MISSION: Members 213; Tattersalls 210; Course 2550 (OAPs 22.75). CAR PARK: Free; BISSHOTE MERIUSE 1.0. 1 Phps 40-138 (29%), D Nicholson 29-86 (39.7%), K Balley 27-108 € LEADING TRANSERS: M Phps 40-138 (29%), D Nicholson 29-86 (39.7%), K Balley 27-108 (25.5%), P Hobbs 24-14 (21.1%), G Balding 19-83 (19.4%), P Nichols 13-52 (25%), € LEADING JOCKEYS: A P NicCoy 47-167 (28.1%), N Williamson 25-137 (18.2%), D Bridgwaler 23-126 (19.5%), C Liewellyn 23-136 (18.9%), R Johnson 14-87 (18.1%).

TM 15	WEDET	(768: 244-674 (36.2%).) PRST TIME: None
[.25	UK RACING RACING SADDLERS NOVICE HURDLI (CLASS E) \$2,925 added 2m Penalty Value \$2,408
2	435U-	BARTON GREEN (NZ) (13) (Startey W Clarke) S Brookshaw 6 10 12. C Maud RNS NO FOOL (270) (D) (Frys No Fool Partnership) J Old 7 10 12. C Liewelly HOLLOA AWAY (199) (D) (W F Reich) 1 Forster 5 10 12. S Wynn
4		LAMIS (54) (BF) (M P Burlets Str Parrily Settlement) U recruition 4 to 22
Б 7		MESANNE ESUDITY (N) (4 Care) A P McCo PEKAY (781) (Aloren, Nelson & Newman) M Pipe 4 10 12
10	P	DAFFOOE EXPRESS (TS) (M J H)en M Nyen 4 to 7
Π.	08U60-	GALACOA (254) (Pro-Revenue) in Process (Pro-Revenue) in Process (Pro-Revenue) in Process (Process of Section S

Q24	Miler, 18-1	& Pekny, 4-1 lamos, 5-1 Frys No Fool, 11-2 Honos Assay, 6-1 Feb. It Berton Green, 20-1 Cold Fest, 33-1 others sponding meeting	
123455789	1/140- 522-3F 1651-4 161/P-1 1620/P- 2344/P-4 4FP-1/0-	SLEE (MORE GROLE (200) (D O THANK P Nicholis 6 T. 10	T J Murph A Thornto C Rae (I G Torne S Corre T Ele
_			

Minimum weight: 10st, True trandicap weights: Crocknamohil Sst. BETTING: 9-4 Who Am I, 100-30 Mystic Court, 4-1 Dencetillyout

2	.25	COUNTRYSIDE COUNTS WORCESTER NOVICE CHASE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) £19,000 added 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £11,820
1	014-Ti	EDGEMOOR PRINCE (25) (D) (The Recing Heres) P Hobbs 6 tt 1
2	D2F0-1	EULOGY (24) (D) (Nicholas Cooper) R Rose 7 tf 1
3	225-5	FLYTRIG GÜMÉNÉRÍ (19) (D) (Mrs R J Stoss) D Nicholson 6 11 1
4	00-5Ut	GRANGE COURT (9) (0) (DSM (Demolion Services Michards) Williams 7 11 1_B Powel
5	5411-4	MAHLER (13) (English Bedranton Partnership) N Twiston-Daves 7 11 1
6		MENESCHEC (6) (D) (Mrs W H Water) FI Alber 7 11 1 A Thumbo
7		OTTOWA (567) (BP) (Paul K Barber) P Nazirolis 7 11 1
8	5035-0	SPACEAGE GOLD (10) (Graham Date) J Old 8 11 1
9	111-5U	WAYWARD KING (6) (D) (Feldspring Reicing) R Hodges 5 10 13T Descomb
		- 9 declared -

BETTING: 11-4 Enloys, 4-1 Edgenoor Prince, 9.2 Plying Guone; 11-2 Grange Court, 13-2 Ottoma, 10-1 Mendenoulc, 12-7 Mahler, 14-1 Specage Gold, 16-1 Mayeard King FORM GUIDE

This is a cracking race and one that Ottowa couldn't be ruled out of in his first run in 19

This is a cracking race and one that Ottowa couldn't be ruled out of in his first run in 19 months. He was a smart staying hurdler in these conditions and was touched off in the first of two starts over fences in the 1985-96 season. Edgamor Prince has done all that has been asked of him in his two attempts over fences, winning cheekily over three miles at Untoweter and then having to work a lot harder in a handcles when dropped in trip at Bangor. It's doubtful whether we have seen the best of him or EULOGY, who made up for a last-fence fall when clear at Sandown tasts seeson by outpacing Amiah (whole a ready won three times) on ground bordering on the fast side over half a mile less at Ascot on his comeback. This longer trip and easier ground should bring out the best in him. Flying Gunner, a decent staying hurder last eason, could never recover from being hampered and almost on the floor at Towcester on his first try over tences. It wouldn't be hampered and amost on the noor at lowester or his test by over tendes, it wouldn't on a surprise to see him feare that nn a long way behind. The competition doesn't end there, lifenesonic has won both chases that he has stood up in; Mainter lost it at the third at Newbury on his chasing debut and can only improve, but the biggest danger may be Grange Corat. The ex-hish gelding deseated of See Enough convincingly at Towcaster, Stamina is his strong suit.

				•	
1 2 3 4 5	PU/SU- SESAME S S31PO TUSCANY 0/221- THREE FA 5184- TOMPETO 5/1F-2 SEYMOUR 1422-5 DRUM BAT	ELA AND JOHN E (CLASS C) EX EED (258) (D) (Raymon HIGHWAY (594) (D) (A RTHANGS (2594) (D) (A C (253) (Raymon Lop) H SWETT (H1) (Swelight Ra TH2) (CD) (The Plansing A 112) (CD) (The Plansing A	d Tooth) N Hendelson Loze) Mis J Ploven 8 7 Hen) J Old 7 11 1 Fusion-Device 6 10 13 Long) D Gandollo 7 10) W G M Tumer 5 10 1 .	9 ti ti J	R Kevanagh D Leeby .C Llowellyn C Maude G Upton R Greene
•	hetan cunoseri		esteración se centra esta		
	To-			·	
Minte	DI AMBOLE INSE'IL	e hendicap weights: Pro			
BEIT	NG: 9-4 Three Fed	blogs, 100-30 Seymor	rana, 4-1 Tompittoo	, 6-7 Sessome Se	2G, 8-1 TUS-

3	.25	TRAMPS NIGHT CLUB OF WORCESTER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £3,578		
1	2PPP/	EDBARBOURG (570) (CD) (Mrs ha Winton) P Hobbs 11 11 12		
2	/2131-	POUCHER (281) (Mrs A L Wood) T Forsier 7 11 11		
3	50052-	BOB DEVANI (253) (Timothy N Chick) T George 11 11 6		
4	ULG-EF	FULL OF BOUNCE (5) (D) (Fieldsprog Fazing) R Hodges 6 Ti 3 T Describe		
5	5U200-	BIG BISH DUN (199) (CD) (Mes N Carroll) E L James 11 11 2		
6	3-5655	BEATSON (6) (Mrs E B Gerdiner) R Buckler 8 11 1		
7	44FP-	SOPHE MAY (270) (J Daniels) R Curtis 6 10 7 D Moorte 9		
8	2017	MAREMMA GALE (411) (D) (BF) (R L Scorgie) N Mitchell 9 1) 8		
9		SUPER MALT (12) (FD Alleon) B Meetern 9 10 0		
HE?	TING: 9-4	Poucher, 7-2 Full Of Bounce, 11-2 Big Ben Dan, 13-2 Bestson, 10-1 Maresma Gels,		
Sopi	ie May,	12-1 Bob Demaney, Edirebourg, 20-1 Super Mait		
1996: No corresponding meeting				
		FORM GUIDE		
Twic	e last e	seson POUCHER showed what he was capable of once he had the ground		

whole ask season POUCHLEH showed when he was capable of once he has trible ground and distance to fiss ling. He is a progressive seven-year-old and capable of making a winning return with all the rain about. Full Of Bounce was questly fancied in Surriey Bay's race at Wincanton last Thursday only to crash out at the water with rine to jump. He rain well from almost a sine out of the handlage when third behind Kommore-Speed and Stately Home at Sandown in April and a fair return at Wincanton earlier this month suggests. by Home at Sentourn in April and a ser return at vertice run manual use manual assessments in the sort of form. Big Ben Dum was forward enough to beet Straight. Talk at Kempton first time out last season and is capable of running well on his first outing from new transer Ed James' yard. Bentson had looked as if he might be coming to hand at Plumpton last month yet didn't offer a great deal more encouragement at Chettenham nine days ago and is passed over until showing something more positive. Selection: POUCHER

3.55 JULIAN LEIGH, REDENHAM PARK STUD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) 22,925 added 3m Penalty Value 22,565				
• • •				
4 COD 4 RANCED CHARLES AND DONAL SEE D.C. 7 S. 4 Williams				
1 530-1 DANGER FLYNIN (26) (D) (R Brazier) Mrs P Sty 7 7 4				
2 OAP-F1 TORCH VERT (10) (Paul Green) M Pipa 5 11 4				
3 0432/3 ABRIGER (9) (T W J Edmonds) Mes M Royland 5 10 12				
4 P/OP-P ANALOGUE (6) (ten D Rosenberg) R Exkley 5 to 12				
5 P5/20- ARMATEUR (FR) (220) (Major H R M Porter) J McComnochie 9 to 12				
6 B/F-UP CLOBES/ER BOY (13) (Mrs. J.K. Speer) M Sheppard 7 to 12				
7 20/P-4 CORALETTE (14) (Or J M Leight) \$ Brookshaw 7 to 12				
8 EMTEC SOMMEREE (NZ) (M L Devision) 8 Brookshaw 5 to 12				
9 /5-25 JOHNAYK (45) (BF) (Norwood Pariners) O Nicholson 6 10 12				
1) 14 RAMBLING SAM (SI) (D) (D J Jones) G Baiding 5 10 12 J Front				
11 STOF SAXON DUKE (17) (Sexon Duke Pertnership) P Hobbs 5 10 12G Toreney				
12 P431-P DONORRIJA (91) (D) (Bill Woodward) F Jordan 6 10 7				
13 SP-085 FLASH CHICK (8) (T Monton) T Monton 8 107				
14 OSP3-5 FORTYTWO DEE 69) (Wiumph International Limited) N Smith 7 to 7				
- 14 dactered -				
BETTENC: 5-2 Torch Vert, 7-2 Rambling Sura, 4-1 Sexon Dake, 11-2 Danger Flynn, 8-1 Johnsey-K.				
10-1 Emisc Someiree, 14-1 Abinger, 16-1 Donneue, 20-1 Armstern, Coralette, 33-1 others				

FIRST SHOW	Huntingdon — 3.40	
	Horse H	
·	Bold Statement 5-2	
11	Berlord Sovereign 5-1	
Huntingdon — 3.10	Bartholesnew Felt 9-2	
Horse C L T	Wandle 9-2	

Page .		•
C	L_	
11-8	ti-B	64
15-8	7-4	74
2-1	94	2-1
20-1	20-1	25-1
80-1	40-1	40-1
250-1	150-1	200-1
inter the co	tds, place	s 1, 2
- Ladasi	es.T-To	
-	603 1 - 10	_
	11-8 15-8 2-1 20-1 80-1 7 250-1 rier the co	11-8 11-8 15-8 7-4 2-1 9-4 20-1 20-1 80-1 40-1

i nana	nanargaun — 3.40			
Horse	H	7		
Bold Statement	5-2	5-2		
Berlord Sovereig	n 5-1	<u>5-</u> 1		
Bartholesnew Fe	k 9-2	5-1		
Wandle	9-2	5-1		
New Lim	7-1	13-2		
Spring Salmt	9-1	8-1		
Tibetan	12-1	10-1		
Dear Do	25-1	20-1		
Lasr Jet	海- 1	20-1		
Prizefighter	16-1	25-1		
Each way, a E	h the colds, place	ıs 1, 2, 3		
H-W	Team HBL, T−Tob			

RESULTS

LUDLOW

12.50: 1. FINAL STAB (W McFarland) 6-1;
2. Among latanda 20-1; 3. Albemine 7-1
16 rac. 6-4 fav Brighstone. 8, 11/h. (C
Dayer, Newmarlan), Tota: £1430; £150, £540,
£230. DF: £48820, CSF: £1801, Tric: Not
wort: £34444 camied forward to Huntingdon
130 today. Non Runners: Haydown, Jole, 1.20: 1. WANDERING LIGHT (R. Johnson) 11-10 fav; 2. Clontoura 5-1; 3. Cool Romer 20-1 it ran. 2h, h. (Capit Forsier, Downton). Tota: 22:00; 21:40, 22:10, 24:5.0.DF; 28:80 CSF; 28:13 Tircast; 28:800. Tro: 253:60.

1.50: 1. BERYLLIUM (A P McCoy) 9-5 ter; 2. Real Fire 15-2; 3. Heart 10-1. 12 ran. 1%, 6. (M Pipe, Wellington), Toler 52:0; 5:00, 52:90, 52:90, 50:00, DF: 13:50, CSF: 51:81, Tricest: 258:00. Tric: 257:90, NP: Todd.

2.20: 1. SLIDEOFHILL (P Cerberry) 5-4 fev; 2. Mutual Agreement 5-1; 3. Bel-lyedward 8-1.7 ren. 8, 5, (J J O'Neil, Pen-rith), Totac 62:20; 2:60, 22:30. DF: 54:50. CSF: 58:8. 2.50: 1. CHURCHTOWN GLEN (C

Maude) 6-1; 2. In The Blood 100-30; 3. Al-bermarks 11-10 fav. 8 ran. 2, 21. (S Brook-shaw, Uffington), Totae 56.80; 51.30, 51.80, 5110. DF: 513.40. CSF: 524.68. 3.20: 1. GET REAL (§I A Fitzpenici) 9-2; 2. Royal Event 4-1; 3. Manvutane 9-1, 7 ran. 11-8 for Step On Eyre (pulled up). 11, sh hd. (N Henderson, Lamboum). Tota: 2500; 22-20, 2180. OF; 28-21. CSF: £20.48

3.56: 1. SUNDAY VENTURE (M A Fizgerald) 6-1; 2. Minor's SEI 16-1; 3. Cas-tle Owen 1-2 fav. 15 ran. Nt. 1%. (N Hen-derson, Lamboum). Toke 5:50; 5:50, 5:50, 5:11 DF: 524740. CSF: 5:5996. Trio: 5:3100. cepot: £128.90. Quadpot: £9.40. Place 6: 243.16. Place 5: 5722 CATTERICK

12.40: 1. OPERA FAN (P Monts) 8-1; 2. Parson's Lodge 7-2; 3. Dismond Crown 7-2. 11 ran. 11-4 fav Alder (Sth.) 2/s. /s. (K Morgan, Metton Mondray). Tota: 5280; 528 Tricest: £103.22. Tric: £28.90.
1.10: 1. COMMITTED SCHEDULE (P. Niven) 3-1; 2. Dorlin Castle 11-8 tex; 3. Charabell 3-1; 11 ran. 2/s, 3. (G. Richards, Greystolic). Tota: £360; £120; £180; £250.
DF: £570. CSF: £704. Tric: £270.
1.40: 1. SUPERPHIDE (P. Niven) 2-1 tex; 2. House Of Dreams 9-2; 3. Tip 1: In 7-1 7 ran. 1/s, 1/s (Mrs M. Rieveley, Saltham). Tota: £280; £230, £310. DF: £400. CSF: £126.

21126.
2.10: 1. PRINCE OF BAINTS (R Garristy) 15-8 far; 2. Last Try 100-80; 3. Paparaszzo 100-30. 10 ran. 5, 3%. (M Herrandrid, Middleham). Tota: C270; C190, C190, C190, C190. DF: C750. C5F: 2659, Tricast C1924. Tric: 6950. NR: Appearance Money.
2.40: 1. FLYVNG MORTH (P Niveri) 4-5 fax; 2. Java Rad 11-1; 3. Primitive Heart 100-1. 21 ran. 8, 1%. (Mrs M Reveley, Saltburn). Toba: C190; C10; C450, C498. DF: C890. C5F: C240, Tho: C3800; C395276 carried forward to Humingdon. 130 today.
3.10: 1. BHLSSROOK (P Niveri) 4-1 it

3.10: 1. Bill_SBROOK (P Neet) 4-1 |t fav; 2. Gold Pigeon 7-1; 3. Karenastino 9-2 a ran. 4-1 |t fav Gels Ahead. b, 24 (Miss B Brewis, Belltort). Tobic: (355); 22.50, £160, £140. DF: £1240. CSF: £2943. Tricust:

3.40: 1. OVER THE BECK (E Calaghan) 5-2 tar; 2. Polar King 11-4; 3. Orange Imp 11-4: 11 rat. 37. 7. (J M Jefferson, Mai-ton), Toke: 530; 510, 510, 5210 DF: 5890. CSF: \$1083, 110: 53.70.

Placapot: £25.70, Quadpot: £15.80. Place 6: £8.25 Place 5: £3.81.

SOUTHWELL SOUTH-WELL

12.00: 1. GODMERSHAM PARK (G
Parkin) 12-1; 2. Legal Issue 7-4 far; 3. Zelotto 5-1.14 ran, ½, 1½, [P Felgate), Totac
18:80; £840, £110; £150, . DF: £2740, CSF£3535, Tricast: £12908, Tric: £3970, NRDomino Flyer, Jimpareer.

12.30: 1. MALLIA (L. Chamock) 5-1; 2.
Deerly 25-1; 3. Southern Dominion 5-1;
4. Superapparoe 20-1, 16 ran, 7-2 fav
Theatre Magic. 2½, nk, (T D Berron), Totac
£750; £272, £1570, £150, £2750, DP: £17820;
£3177 carried forward to Hurtingdon 130
today.

today. 1.00: 1.AEOLINA (Dean McKeown) 3-1 fay; 2. Rasd 6-1; 3. Wildmoor 10-1.16 ran. 1/4.3. (S Kettlewell, Tote: 5440: £220, £250, £430. DF: £1800. £5F: £2258, Thio: £1826; £2798 carried forward to Huntingdon 110

1.30: 1. MBIDDLE EAST (Kintorley Heri)
5-2 lav: 2. Flytk 7-2; 3. Pelo Blanco 6-1;
4. Sylvan Dancar 18-1, 16 ran. ½, 3½, (T
D Barron). Fiste: \$490; £160, £170, £300,
£460, DF: £1520, CSF: £7259, Threst:
£5600. Tru: £1300

2.00: 1. DEMOCRAT (G Duffeld) 1-2 ter; 2. Molly Music 10-1; 3. Denoing Destiny 20-1; 4. Sea Spouse 12-1 16 ran. 4 rk. (Sr Mark Prescott) Tota: \$180; \$110, \$240, \$270, \$290. DF: \$1140. \$5F: \$28.21 Tricest \$29.055. Tho: \$285.10.

2,30: 1. DOUBLE EDGED (G Duffeld) 2-5 fay; 2. Massamades 9-2; 3. Naked Cat 16-1 8,7160, 5150, DF: 5400, CSF: 5240 510, 5150, 5150, DF: 5400, CSF: 5240 210, 2160, 2150, DF; 5400, CSF; 5348, 3.00; 1 LADY EE, () Stack) 6-1; 2. Sharp Monkey 20-1; 3. Sharnies Own 14-1 16 and 11-0 fav Dance fo The Beet. 16, 2. (B Smart), Thotas 20-0; 22-30, 25-30, 25-30, 05-25-30, CSF; 215004 Tito; 22-3120; 22-93, 4 carried forward to Humingdon 10 today, 3.30; 1. TOI TOI (Mrs. D Arbuthnot) 6-1; 2. Edan Halghta, 8-1; 3. Pharty Dancer 9-4 fav. 13 ran. 3, 2. (D Arbuthnot), Totas 23.70; 21-30, C32-31, CSF; 25-30, Tricast 21-38-48, Tric. 27-70.

THE INDEPENDENT		
RACING : 0891	SERV つん	ICES
TIME COMMEN	TARIES	RESULTS
HUNTINGDON	971	981
WORCESTER	972 973	982 983
ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970		
Culls coad Silps per minutes. ELS, pix, Screetion St CCA, 477		

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LINGFIELD

HYPERION 12.05 Gold Lance 12.35 Another Monk 1.05 Gold

12.05 Gold Lance 12.35 Another Monk 1.05 Gold Clipper 1.35 Running Stag 2.05 Kafil 2.35 Batch-Worth Belle 3.05 Selmeston 3.35 Alfahaal GONG: Standard STALLS: tm - outside; rest - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low over 5' 6' 6'.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low over 5' 6'.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low over 5'.

D

12.05 FAUCETS FOR GROHETEC RADAR OPERATED TAPS HANDICAP (CLASS

12.35 FAUCETS FOR GROHMASTER LOW OR HIGH PRESSURE HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £3,300 added 2m

1.05 FAUCETS FOR GROHETEC RADAR OP-ERATED TAPS HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,300 added 1 m 2f 3-0820 MISSRE TOE (21) D Mores 4-9 13 N Day 2

048805 CONSTRONTER (15) (C) S Dow 8-9 10 W Ryun 12

120050 ARZAMI (JSA) (22) (CD) D Cosgove 5-9 8 M Rissour 4

580000 FANTASY GRIL (25) J Dunlop 3-9 4 M Figure 6

12023 GUESSTMATION (12) (D) J Patros 8-9 4 M Wigdom 6

0250-6 ROWLANDSONS CHARMI (12) (C) Miss 8 Sandom 4-9 3 A Clarit 10 V

1.35 FAUCETS FOR GROHE WATER CENTRES STAKES (CLASS D) 94,900 added 1m 2f — 8 deciared — BETTING:11-10 Romaing Sing, 5-2 Acherna, 3-1 Unconditional Love, 10-1 Sea Denzig, 25-1 Komreyev Duscer, 100-1 Joli Pryers

2.05 FAUCETS FOR GRONE WATER TECH-NOLOGY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 1m

— 11 declared — BETTING: 10-11 Kalls, 5-1 Other Cale, 7-1 floren Boy, Mariketo, 12-1 Blood Orange, 16-1 Raspherry Sauce, Denahls George, 20-1 Lastid Blos, Abla Lass, Pine Creek, 33-1 Milloy Way

2.35 FAUCETS GROHEDAL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO 7f
0000 AFTER EIGHT (28) (BF) R Amstrong 8 0 ____F Norton 10
0 BANK ON HSB (17) G L Moore 9 0 _____ M Wighten 2
0 BRIERY MEC (16) H Collegation 8 0 _____ M Rimmer 11
0 GOLD HAWK (17) 8 Smart 9 0 _____ J Stack 5
0 R LDESTMO (26) (8F) P Mikhly 9 0 _____ R Cochrain 8
00 OMAR'S ODYSSEY (28) P Mikhly 9 0 _____ A Clark 1
04 BATCHWORTH BELLE (12) E Wheeler 8 9 ____ S Curson (7) 7
0 ELASELLOU (50) M Lohreton 8 9 _____ Deen McKoons 6
00 ORFLIE SET (16) Sr M Prescott 8 9 _____ S Sandars 3
0 ORMANENTAL (17) J Russiane 8 9 _____ M Day 9
65 RUSSIAN DELIGHT (35) R Harvon 6 9 ____ R Perham 4

BETTWG: 7-4 Batchworth Belle, 11-2 II Destino, 6-1 Reseian Deligie, 19-2 The Robe, 8-7 Briery Mec, 19-1 After Elghi, 12-1 Ornamental, 14-1 Girlie Set, 16-1 Babellou, 25-1 others 3.05 FAUCETS FOR GROHMASTER LOW OR HIGH PRESSURE HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,300 added 2m BETTUIG: 7-2 Rose Of Glens, 9-2 Doyeurs, 5-1 Anjou, 11-2 Seimeston, 6-1 Ryling Colours, 8-1 Be Trus, 10-1 Elemity, 12-1 Magally Yours, Broughtons Fonsola, 16-1 Little Hooligan 3.35 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (Qualifier) (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m

9 040000 BOWLED OVER (181) C Cyzer 4 9 8 ____ Dem MicKnown 19 000040 GADGE (34) (CD) A Balley 6 9 6 ____ J Bostley (7) 11 53072 ALFAHAAL (19) (D) (BF) C Dwyer 4 9 3 ____ M Wighen 5 100043 RWOCATION (12) (CD) G L Moore 10 9 2 ____ A Clark 12

A Clark 12 – 12 declared – EETTING: 3-1 Alianasi, 5-2 Berbason, 5-1 Puzziement, 13-2 invocation, 7-1 Robalico, 8-1 Diamet Golf Time, Gadge, 10-1 Myttons Mistake, 12-1 Tramplin, 20-1 others



ALAN WATKINS

ON **RUGBY**

but a newspaper columnist who wrote on numerous other matters. His catch-phrase was: "I told lackadaisical - attitude."

them, but they wouldn't listen." Clive Woodward, the England coach, that Mike Catt was not an international goalkicker, but he Zealand try notching up the wouldn't listen, assuming he odd in the condition of the conditi heard my advice in the first

happy to say, old enough to remember Bleddyn Williams, to suggest that this was indeed some of them will also remember his point of view. So Catt missed ber Hannen Swaffer. He was not, a few? Well, that's life. You was

n, but they wouldn't listen." The England captain, lodgy I make no apology for Lawrence Dallaglio, had the the match he was quoted as saying that you did not beat New

la this column I have striv-

ministrators must as professionals be judged by more rigorous standards.

Woodward and Dallaglio beas far as I know, a rugby follower, some and you lose some. This and tween them demonstrate a peared to be Woodward's dis shocking irresponsibility. On and on they go, in that curious management-speak which they echoing him. A week ago I told same slandagh approach. After about mental hardness and the Thi right attitude. But what is right, and where is the hardness, in throwing away points that are there for the taking?

consider that kicking penalty kindly side some years ago, fer. They would have ended up goals and converting tries are of when ragio was a game played with 19, that is all. If Andrew the first importance. Some of his by young men for exercise and Mehrtens had kicked his goals, were a tougher proposition than ward brought on in his place.

is after Salanday's match fun. Today the players and ad- New Zealand would have fin- the midweek side (where, howished with 30.

> But that is not the proper way of looking at things. Cart had and Neil Back all did enough to three opportunities early in the earn a recall). We cannot be abmatch. If he had taken them as solutely certainly what would he ought to have done - and as have happened at Old Trafford Paul Grayson, for one, would if Catt had been able to give Enghave done - England would have adopted and which has in- have given New Zealand a nasty

This is precisely what Grayson did in Thesday's match at Huddersfield when the tourists played a supposedly 'emerging" England XV. As Saturday likewise.

ever, I thought that John Bentley, Mark Regan, Chris Sheasby urged he should be. land an early lead of 9-3.

There are two curious features to Woodward's obstinacy in this regard. One is that Grayson was on the substitutes' bench throughout the afternoon and stayed there, though at one point he was going through var-Certainly England would not we know, New Zealand came ious warming-up exercises as if ace.

En Weekly not to give gratuitous have beaten New Zealand if Catt back magnificently, as they about to put in an appearance it may be that he does not offence. I decided to show my had kicked all the points on of- probably would have done on on the field. When Adedayo Adebayo was slightly injured it But England on Saturday was Austin Healey that Wood-

half, he could have virtually the nity of adding another two back division he wanted in the beginning, Matt Petry still at fullback and Catt at outside centre. where such a distinguished com- a tapped penalty, a scrum or a mentator as Chris Rea has long

This solution, if permanent or as permanent as anything in rugby ever is - would admittedly be harsh on Alex King, Woodoutside-half. But then, I have yet or Jeremy Guscott's brilliance ward's original first choice at to be convinced that even a fit King at the moment is anything more than a good club player.

I take no pleasure in going on about the importance of kicking points. There is no logical, as distinct from historical,

The other is that, if Wood-ward played Grayson at outside-be rewarded with the opportupoints. The award of a penalty is now a lottery. I would replace a kick at goal with the choice of kick to touch.

At the same time I am a realist. I deal with the world as it is. So did Fran Cotton and Ian McGeechan in the summer. The Lions beat South Africa not because of Scott Gibbs's tackling but because of Neil Jenkins's boot-and because South Africa unaccountably refused to avail themselves of the services of Joel Stransky. At least Wales will have Jenkins at Wembley, though I fear he will not be nearly enough.

Little learns to cope with living in the firing line

Football clubs and fans are very demanding but, as he explained to Adam Szreter, Brian Little does not worry about his position as Aston Villa's manager, whatever the outcome of his side's Uefa Cup third-round tie against Steaua **Bucharest**, which starts in Romania tonight.

Brian Little wandered back into the manager's room at Villa Park early on Thursday afternoon, smiling almost uncontrollably after taking a private phone call in an adjacent office. "That was the chairman," he said. "He's out shooting in the middle of a field somewhere - I think he just fore he shoots his next pheas-

Little is blessed with a "special relationship" with Doug Ellis, who over the years has fired many more Aston Villa managers than most people have had hot pheasant. Ellis admits to looking upon Little as a son, and Little's popularity as a Villa player, allied to a good track record in management, led "Deadly Doug" to declare recently that the job was Little's "until I turn up my toes".

That vote of confidence came shortly after Villa, championship hopefuls at the outset, had created a club record by losing the first four games of the season. Disappointing form in the League has not been helped by implied criticism of the manager by his own captain, Gareth Southgate, and a more blatant verbal attack on the club's record signing, Stan Collymore, by his fellow striker Savo Milosevic.

The one saving grace for Lit-

coincides with the third an-

Little's honesty is endearing, and in public he prefers to stay laid-back, but if Bucharest turns out to be Villa's last excursion in Europe, the focus will switch inevitably to the manager's ability to motivate his talented squad. and Collymore in particular.

ferent side of me to what my defence. "I try very hard not to show too many emotions in front of the camera. I've built up an image of how a football manager should portray himself and I work at that all the time, playing the role the way I think it should be played. It's very

hard to change.

tle in a wretched season has come in the Uefa Cup. Tonight's third round first leg against

niversary of Little's appointment, and he makes no effort to mask the significance of the tie.

team out there," he said -Southgate is injured, Sasa Curcic ill and goalkeeper Mark Bosnich on World Cap duty with Australia. "If we get through this round and put two or three decent League results together, everybody would go into Christmas and the new year feeling a million miles better than they've felt all season."

"I think people see a dif-

The Aston Villa midfielder Ian Taylor has been recalled for tonight's Uefa Cup third-round first-leg match away to Steaua Bucharest - with Brian Little insisting he has a key role to play. Little had no besitation in

bringing Taylor back into the starting line-up, after he missed Saturday's 2-1 win over Everton while serving the first match of a three-game domestic sus-

"I wish I could have my best

"Stan wants to do well, but the problem is that even if he does reasonably well but doesn't score, people are making an issue of it. I have to say I still think it'll work. He has an unbelievable profile and the media make it harder for him,

> aware of the threat that Steaua's quickfire play in the final third of the field can pose - with Radu Cozma earmarked as the danger man - and he wants to keep it tight by taking a grip in the centre of the field. That is where Taylor, the scorer of the opening goal in the 2-1 home win against Athletic Bilbao in the second round, can fit

their clubs," Little admitted.

because if it isn't quite right it'll

be totally wrong in their eyes.

That's a better story." and the club is a good part-So far, the fans have shown nership. But if it goes on - a deno sign of deserting either Colgree of failure, if that's the word lymore or Little, and Saturday's then that could change. Even much needed win over Everton then, if it gets to the point where drew another healthy crowd. "I there is a split, I feel a lot of have a different relationship people would be genuinely sad. with the supporters here than most other managers have at

"I'd always do what is best for this club, but I think if my back was up against the wall I'd

fight. I don't think I'd lie down, a dispassionate view of the "For whatever reason a lot People probably don't know of people seem to think myself that side of me, but I wouldn't give in to it. I wouldn't want to give it up."

Brian Little: "I've built up an image of how a football manager should portray himself and I work at that all the time"

Little's willingness even to contemplate the scenario suffered so recently by David Pleat and Gerry Francis is slightly surprising, but as a

founder member of the League Managers' Association he takes

> ing from midfield to a right wing-back role, at the expense of Gary Charles. However, Little will again pick his three main strikers -- Stan Collymore, Savo

different ideas and try different

things, and people's mentality

"In Europe, for a long time

will come round to that.

managers and players have had managerial merry-go-round. a couple of years here and a "I try not to worry about it," couple of years there and it's he said. "I have a four-year conbeen change, change, change. tract here and it would be bril-The British scene has been liant if I see it out. But we are unique in that respect. But begoing to see coaches changing cause we're now trying to coma lot more frequently to provide pete with the top Italian clubs,

> with how the Europeans have always done it." Villa are Britain's sole sur-

> our three lads to push on to

vivors in the Uefa Cup, but Littie says has no time to worry about flying the flag: "We do know that the media spotlight will be on us again but, because of our present position, we also know that if we fail it could be blown up to be an even worse re we're going to have to go along sult than it is. We're worried from that point of view, but it's more selfish than a national thing.

Photograph: David Rogers/Alisport

"We feel their strength is their attacking play, and the fact that we are without two of our best defenders is concerning us. but if we can work out the right roles in the Yorke, Milosevic. Collymore combination we can score goals.

"At the moment we don't foresee a 0-0 in both games we'd settle for that in the first leg, but we probably need to go to Bucharest and score. If we sit back too much in this game we'll pay the penalty, so our plan is to be as brave as we dare be in an away leg in Europe."

Villa keep faith with three-man front line while Taylor is given vital role to play

pension. The Villa manager is the bill, with his committed style bao - but we don't want to be mean Fernando Nelson switch-

Little said: "If we allow them to play in the final third of the field too much, then they are clever enough to break you down. They are neat on the one-twos. We have got to try and break the game up more in midfield than at the back.

"Our centre-backs were outstanding in Bordeaux and Bil-

just soaking pressure up and then relying on the occasional break. We want to play further up the field," Little added. "Ian Taylor can have a key part in that and he has been very important to us this season. He can break things up. That's the sort of thing we are looking for, and

it is one of his strengths." Taylor's inclusion is likely to Milosevic and Dwight Yorke and he believes the trio can exploit the Steaua defence. "Bucharest play with three

centre-backs but also try to play offside and I might encourage

England's selectors, mean-

while, have been attempting to

figure out ways and means of

their shoulders and to try and get behind them," Little said. Little will be without Sasa Curcic, left behind in Birmingham after reporting ill with a virus, in addition to the injured Gareth Southgate, while Mark Bosnich will be on World Cup duty with Australia. The centre-back Lee Collins, 19, is

appearances among their num-

ber. Unfortunately, precisely

half of them belong to one man,

Rodber himself and another 13

to Mark Regan, the Bristol-

born hooker who decamped to

neighbouring Bath during the

It will be a big game for

Rejuvenated Springboks hungry to regain pride against the English lions

The faces may be familiar, but the mindset is dangerously different. South Africa have kept faith with the vast majority of the players who self-destructed against the Lions last summer, but as Chris Hewett reports, they are likely to be a very different proposition when England's rugby union team face them at Twickenham on Saturday.

Nick Mallett might have presided over a Springbok cull following the South African national team's emasculation by Martin Johnson and his barricade-building Lions six months

ago. As befits an Oxford graduate with sufficient grey matter to take a diploma in politics and philosophy and a Blue at bridge, the new national coach opted for evolution rather than revolution and is in the process of being proved correct. Suddenly, the world champions are out of the doldrums and back on rugby's high veldt. Gary Teichmann's Boks flew

into London from Paris yesterday, fully intent on making the second chapter of this particular Tale of Two Cities a grimly Dickensian experience for Clive Woodward and his ambitious young England side. Whatever the outcome, there will be a distinctly ironic flavour to this Saturday's one-off Test at Twickenham; no fewer than 10 of the visitors tasted defeat at the hands of Johnno and company while only two of the seven victorious English Lions, Lawrence Dallaglio and Richard Hill, are current firstchoices for their country. Mallett has, however, shuf-

fled his cards extremely effectively. Percy Montgomery is now a pearl of an attacking fullback rather than a frail and hesitant outside centre; Andre Snyman is knocking opponents over in midfield rather than running up culs-de-sac on the wing and Henry Honiball is back at outside-half, full of vim and vigour after a muchneeded vote of confidence from an understanding and, it seems, inspirational coach.

The result of all this selectorial jiggery-pokery? A 2-0 series victory in France (no mean feat in itself) and a quite astonishing 52-10 masterpiece of a performance to run down the curtain on the Parc des Princes in last weekend's second Test. "I don't think for a moment that we're really 40odd points better than the French - they caught us on a good day, we caught them on a bad one - but I always believed we possessed the potential to play the way we did," said Mallett.

"What has surprised me is that it's happened so quickly. The aim was, and still is, to get back into a position from which we can defend our World Cup crown, to get some pride back into our rugby after the defeat by the Lions and a poor Tri-Nations and some confidence back into the players. I've tried to do this by consulting the players and finding out how they want to be managed - I'm not the dictatorial sort - and through good selection. I do

think there was some poor selection during recent series." Because of a head injury suffered by Johan Erasmus, the

Free State flanker, during the Paris hostilities, Mallett has been forced into one change of personnel for Twickenham. That change will not bring an ounce of encouragement to the English: good as Erasmus may be, his replacement, Andrew Aitken, has already left an indelible mark on the minds of those who encountered him back in the summer. A 29-year-old all-purpose

loose forward with Scottish ancestry, Aitken turned in the finest individual performance of any South African during the Lions tour; indeed, the attacking virtuosity he produced for Western Province at Newlands resulted in some very serious offers from north of the border. Another Oxford Blue - like his coach, he was a Varsity Match No 8 - he can now start relishing the build-up to a richly deserved first start at Test level.

avoiding another murderous hiding from New Zealand's midweek team when they send out an English Rugby Partnership XV - effectively, an England A side - at Bristol City's Ashton Gate stadium tonight. Whether they have the mix right is open to debate; if last week's Emerging England found themselves being comprehensively "mullered" by Todd Blackadder's outfit despite the apparent safety net of 70 full

knows what might happen to this latest line-up. Captained by Tim Rodber the Lion of Northampton, who is slowly working his way back to full fitness after weeks of injury frustration - the ERP

XV can point to 64 full England

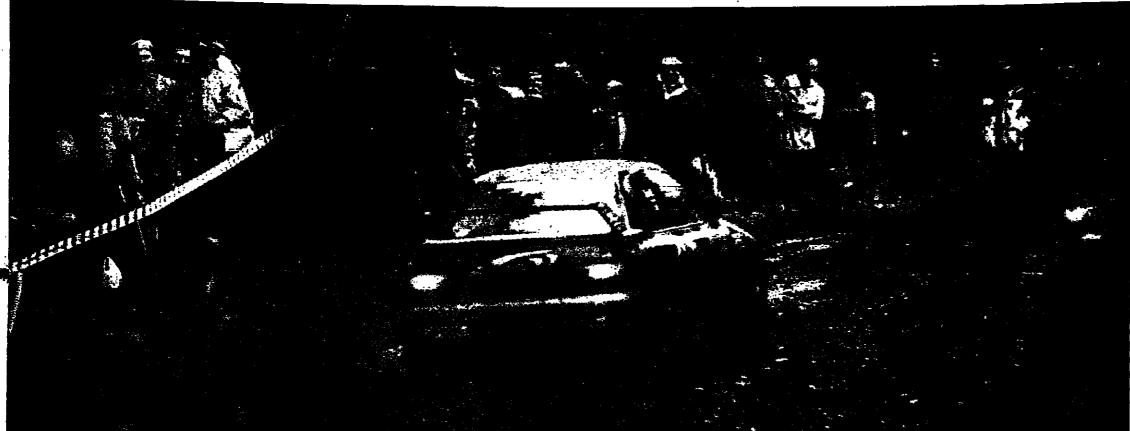
caps between them, beaven

brief careers.

both, as it will be for Tim Stimpson, Newcastle's transferlisted full-back and one possible solution to England's goal-kicking problems. But how much they will be able to show in a side positively chocker with rookies remains to be seen. Spencer Brown, Richard Butland, Martyn Wood, Phil Vickery and, in particular, Patrick Sanderson, the openside flanker from Sale, are right out of left field and will be playing at a level way beyond anything encountered in their

(Gloucester) R Winters (Bedford), J ey (Waspe), Y Ubogu (Bath), A Long

• Bath will have to travel to France if they overcome Pau in the semi-finals of the Heineken European Cup. The final will be staged at Stade Lescure in Bordeaux on Saturday 31 January.



Forest foray: Dirt flies up from the Subaru of Italy's Piero Liatti and Fabrizia Pons during the 14th stage at Pantperthog in Wales yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

McRae pulls himself out of a hole to share lead

The tension mounts for Colin McRae as the RAC Rally heads for its last day. Derick Allsop reports

sfa Romeo

_ [-- | **@04)

from Cheltenham. A day of drama, controversy and anxiety ended with Colin McRae and Richard Burns, remarkably, together on the same time in the Network Q

RAC Kally and the world ionship delightfully set an enthralling finale. 📝 as a day marred by a baid nt involving two #elaunknown British com-

KETBALL

Riot erupts

in Belgrade

Dozens of basketball fans, in-

cluding Belgrade's acting may-

or, have been injured in riots

which erupted during a match

involving Yugoslavia's two lead-

The game between the city

rivals Red Star and Partizan

Belgrade on Sunday was cut

short by one minute after club-

wielding police had to intervene

Star 77-69 and were heading for

a victory in a national champ-

ionship match when Red Star

ans fired a tracer rocket which

hit the acting mayor of Bel-

grade, Milan Bozic, in the

stomach, causing serious burns.

minutes of fist-fighting, throw-

ing torches and rockets, stones

Rival fans engaged in 20

Partizan were leading Red

to stop the chaos.

s, John Leekie and his

co-driver Graham Lewis, who were seriously injured when they crashed on the Hafren stage. Further incidents on that stage and the next forced the organisers to abandon them. Lewis was airlifted to hospital

injuries. McRae picked himself up from eighth place in the early morping gloom to draw level with Burns on the final stage. To become champion, McRae must win the rally and hope that Tommi Makinen, at present sixth, drops at least one place in today's concluding proceed-

one season in the ESL South

City of Portsmouth.

ings in south Wales.

HOCKEY

If the 29-year-old Scot now pulls it off, he will be acclaimed on the famous racecourse here this evening as the most popu-

lar winner since Desert Orchid.

Such a scenario seemed a

distant fantasy when he was yesterday. He put his Subaru in a ditch and negotiated the rest of the Radnor stage with extreme caution and lost 90 seconds. His main rivals overhauled him, none more gleefully than Burns, the 26-

Burns said: "I knew I had six minutes more daylight than the others, so I went full force. I passed Didier Auriol, who had been two minutes in front of

me. It's a great start."

McRae, unsurprisingly, had a different perspective. He could not contain his frustration and said: "I couldn't see a thing and drove straight off a straight piece of road. It was terrible out there. It shouldn't be allowed in a professional world champiwho's the quickest driver, not the weather. Maybe they should reverse the running order a bit the following day to make it fair."

He channelled his anger in a positive manner thereafter, winning four consecutive stages I've had to do all the way and climbing closer to Burns. through. The rest is out of my

The gap was reduced by a furcontrol." "I don't suppose the fans will ther 10 seconds when the Mitsubishi driver incurred a penalty know who to cheer for. I'm not for taking too long at a service bothered about Richard. It stop. His team-mate, Makinen, looks like Tommi will be in the received a 20-minute penalty for top six, but it is never over una similar offence. Burns retalitil the last stage."

> joker to scupper McRae. If he and Burns are still neck-andneck with one stage to go, then Burns, McRae's former teammate, could be instructed to sacrifice his own rally rather than risk a second place that might endanger Makinen's chances of finishing in the points.

Mitsubishi may yet play their

tively unaltered. All he can do is stick to the original script and go all out for the win. Makinen, too, could remove the doubts by increasing his pace. He has patently been restrained by his team, which has proved an irritating if understandable expedient for him.

McRae's situation is effec-

Finland's Juha Kankkunen starts the final day in third place, his Ford team-mate Carlos Sainz, of Spain, is fourth and Finland's Marcus Gronholm, driving a Toyota, fifth. Auriol, troubled from that opening stage, rolled out of the Rally

RUGBY LEAGUE

Murray the main man for Leeds

Leeds have settled on Graham Murray as the man they want

to take charge at Headingley. The club have offered the job to the Hunter Mariners coach, who only needs to say yes to succeed Dean Bell - who moved into a youth develop-

ment role recently. Leeds are understood to have agreed terms with Murray, who also coached successfully with the Illawarra Steelers and also Fiji in the 1995 World Cup. The only possible snag is that the Mariners - finalists in the World Club Championship this year but doomed to extinction when the two competitions in Australia merge - have not yet

been pronounced dead. "Australian Super League have agreed to his release once the future of Hunter is settled," the Leeds chief executive, Gary Hetherington, said. "A decision was expected at the weekend but now it seems it will be later in the week. Graham fits our bill and is keen to join us. We are confident of being able to announce his appointment lat-

er this week." The appointment will end speculation that the Test coach. Andy Goodway, is lined up for the Headingley job, or that another former Great Britain coach, Ellery Hanley, is set to

return to his home-town club. Wigan have told London Broncos that they are not prepared to part with Henry Paul. but they are prepared to loan fringe players to Orrell rugby

union club.

Salford, who have already signed four new players for next season, are interested in the New Zealand-born winger, Richard Henare, who was sacked by Warrington for disciplinary reasons last season.

Abolishing relegation from Super League will be among the measures to be discussed by the Rugby League Council when it meets next week.

The fate of Workington and Oldham after taking the drop has strengthened opinion that Super League clubs need time to plan ahead and achieve fiwould not initially be at the expense of promoting teams from the First Division, as Super League is projected to increase from its present 12 sides.

"The idea is for the present Super League clubs to be able to plan ahead and work without the fear of relegation at the end of the season," Peter Rowe, the Rugby Football League's media manager, said. "It should enable them to put a sound financial base in place before franchising

operations come in in 1999." The meeting will also discuss how competition outside Super League should be organised next season - one division or the present two - and the increasing likelihood that next season's World Cup will be postponed for a year.

- Dave Hadfield

with suspected chest and spinal caught out by fog and darkness on the first Weish forest stage

Eastcote suffer frustration

year-old Englishman.

onship. It should be decided by

on 2hr 13min 43sec. McRae said last night: "Tm certainly feeling a lot happier than I was this morning. All I can do now is go all out on the final day but then that's what

our day."

CRICKET

Stewart leaves in good heart

Micky Stewart leaves Lord's development of excellence "Beating Dallas was one of English cricket is going in the

Stewart, the former England team manager, has reached retirement and is being succeeded on 1 January by the former Glamorgan captain, Hugh Morris, as the England Crick-

Stewart, the ECB's director of coaching and excellence, said: "The message that some of us have been preaching for quite a while now is finally getting through. The success of everything we do in the develcoment of cricket and cricketers will, of course, be judged in how we perform right at the top at

Test level. through, we are already beginning to see the fruits of the

Mossley or Jambe v West Audidand; Poulton Victoria v (Ridgeove or Brodsworth; Tow Law v Dunston FB; Chester-le-Street or Billingham Town v Frier Lune OB; Boldmere St Michaels or Amold v North Femby, Cithere v Boston Town; Oadbyw Sasham Red Star; Brigg v Huddraft; Amshrope or Densby v Birsteit; Thaciley v Standord; Bloweich v Spatishing Braintree v Bunstead; Hemel Hempstead, v Bunston; Lymington or Bemerton Health v Woodbridge; Bodrin v Bowers; Wirthorne v Tiverton; Bestlon v Heme Bay or Langney Sports; Cowes Sports v Check; Porthleven v Arlessey; Bridport v Potters Bay Owen; Herwich & Parlesson or v Potters Bay Sports of Porthleven v Arlessey; Bridport v Potters Bay Sports v Chipstead; Brook House

Golf

next month, happy at last that scheme at Under-17 and Unin 1990 - and in which people like Graham Saville, John Abrahams and Gordon Lord work so hard. "At the moment people

might say that the selection of half a dozen or so teenagers for this winter's England A tour is just coincidence. I believe that we will still be producing players in five years' time - which will then prove that it is not chance.

Makhaya Ntini will today become the first black African to play cricket for South Africa. The 20-year-old fast bowler has been called up for South Africa's opening match of their Australian tour, a one-day game with an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI taking place near Perth.

— Mark Baldwin

and chairs. Dozens of people : press on us and we had no answer." The manager's frustrawere injured in the fracas. TODAY'S FIXTURES

JEFA CUP THIRD ROUND FIRST LEG Steems Buchsvest v Aston Villa (5.45) Stemm, Bucharest v Aston vine (AA9) — Charles Regid Visma v Lazio, Braga (Por) v Schelbe 04 (830); Twente Enschede (Neth) v Ausers (845); Croelas Zegeb v Atletico Atlatici, Stresbourg v Internazionale, Ajax v VII. Bocham (Ber); Kertsruhe (Ger) v Spertak Moscow (60). Mosov (60)

FRA CUP FRAT-ROUND REPLAYS
Basingsioks v Wycombo (7-30)
Burnisy v Rotherham
Cambridge Unit v Plymouth
Cardiff v Slough (7-30)

Colcheser v Bransford

critey v Morecumbe Sainshorough v Lincoln City (7.30) at Sincil Barit, Lincoln Singham v Bristol Rovers Grimeby y Shranabury Layton Orient y Hendon rsSeld v Ot LUBIG CUP SECOND ROUND elow. 7.30 unless stated

Biolox. 7.30 unless stated

FA CARL SEERIG VASE Second round:
FA CARL SEERIG VASE Second round:
Annihorpe Weiterie v Denator, Herne Bey v
Langary Bronz. Second-round replays:
Booksourth v Kotegrove (BD): Annol v Bookmere St Bishnets (795); Heiter v Rocester (745);
Greet Weitering v Deel (745); Fotestore v Heireth & Periestori (BD): Burnisern v Avelay; Besisrion Health Heidequers v Lymington (745);
FYNDRIN ERGLE: Presenter Divisions Apellory,
v Erdleit; Chestnera v Sutton List: Harrose Borbody v Nesderg: Kingster Divisions Apellory,
v Erdleit; Chestnera v Sutton List: Harrose Borbody v Nesderg: Kingsterien v Purfaet; Weiton & Harristern v Dustich Harrist (745); First
Divisions, Advantor, Even v Molessy (745);
Grego Athlete v Sarton Rovers; Romford v
Steines (725); Quandies Inseurance Cup seeand munch, Brotzer & Berthon v Cambonies,
Fall Members Cup first round: Oxford City
v Trama, Associates Members' Trophy secsed round: Bertsleed v Martow; Berthog v
v Trama, Associates Members' Trophy secsed round: Bertsleed v Martow; Berthog v
v Trama, Encional v Export & Even! Egham
v Hungerford: Flackwell Health v Docking; Ford
Und v Edyser, Hernel Hempstead v Esst Trunrots; (RS); Lingston v Bedford Issen (745); Messpoolies Potics v Windson & Borr, Northwood
v Tereston, Souland v Hornchurch; Titoury v
Mestichoe.

URBORD LEAGURE Promise Division: Ac-

Menticipe.

Mentic R NARTHES LEAGUE Premier Districts identifies of Selective 17.45, Michael Palms Resign v Salective 17.45, Michael Palms Resign v Sampshed Dynama, South-Julializar, Clevedon v Carbanism.

dEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division (745): Great Yarmouth v Wetton; Lowestoft v Suchury Wenderers; Newmerket; v Stowmerket; Suddury Town v Gorleston; Warboys v Dies v Dies.

JENSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Bournemouth
FC v East Cowell Vics.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Afterion Colleries v Saltont Chadderton
v Nentwich (745): Gloscop North End v Maine
Road; Hashington v Rossendale; Hollor Old
Boys v Citteroe; Vaustrali GM v Presod; Cables:

ty corner and the equaliser

from David Penfold.

Boys v Catheroe; Vaushali GM v Prescot Cables.

NORTHERAL COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Liversedge v North Ferriby;
Trackley of rigg.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Prepreprinciple v Backwall (7AS); Bridgwater v Indington (7AS).

LRAJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Horstein YMCA v Selsey (75); Pegham
v Whitehawir; Shoreher v Littlehampton
V Whitehawir; Shoreher v Littlehampton
V UntraHorstein V Mintel
CUP Second round: Newport Pagnel v
Northampton Spencer; Sorbide v Narries
Blackstone; Wootton v Thrapston.

ARNOTT INSUPANCE NORTHERPM LEAGUE
First Division: Stockton v Morpetit, Lasgue
Cup second round: Ashinglan v Durham Cry,
Bedington Terriers v Consett; Durston FB v
Washington; Seshigton v Speleton; South
Shelds v Esh Winning.

GLIBERT LEAGUE OF WALES CUP Second
round first leg: Cemeses thrys Mon v TNS
Llansantfield (7AS).

SAUNNOFF RISH LEAGUE Premier Division:
Ards v Crusaders; Glentoran v Omeight Linfeld
v Portadown.

PONTWES LEAGUE First Division: Coventry

iv Portadown:
Pontradown:
PONTRIS LEAGUE First Division: Covertry
v Olcham (70): Notics Counsy v Grimsby (70).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Charlton v Ipsecth (20): Crystal Palace
v Calsenta Park Rangers (20) (Prugh Larie):
V Calsenta Park Rangers (20) (Prugh Larie):
Wast Ham v Chelses (745) and Southend (ad). THE THIES FA YOUTH CUP Second roun Sheffeld Und v Trenmere Rouses (72); Norwi Chy v Crystel Palace; Bradford City v Sca borough (72).

Rugby Union RESENTATIVE MATCH: Malends Under-/ v New Zeeland Under-21 XV (7:30) (at

Other sports RALLYING: British RAC Rally (finish at Chal-jerham). SNOOKER: UK Championarip (Presion).

National League status after just failed from eight second-half | Super Bowl champions Green of games at Dallas. penalty corners. However, Louden is muet-

Premier suffered a setback over ly confident ahead of next the weekend when they were held to a 2-2 draw by Beckenweek's game against Portsmouth. "We have flair, skill and ham to rob them of their maxa will to win and I think we can imum points record, although they are still three points ahead achieve things," he said. of their nearest challengers,

Winchester's 5-3 victory over Chickester allowed Portsmouth, with a victory by the It was a frustrating day for Eastcote's manager, Paul Lousame score over Woking, to don. Two goals up after 15 minmove back into second place. Winchester's player-coach, Siutes following strikes from Danny Geach and James mon Hazlitt, the former Great Britain player, led the way, Grant, Eastcote went off the boil, allowing Beckenham back scoring twice in their victory, with Mark Vowles, Peter Lelinto the game to score twice beliott and James Wakely comfore the interval - a drag flick from Graham Butler at a penalpleting the scoring.

Another former international, Wales' Micky Colclough, Loudon said: "We allowed scored a hat-trick for Woking, but it was not enough against Beckenham to put a half court

Novotna's joy

in New York

Jana Novotna, one of the most

talented players never to have won a Grand Slam title, held ber fragile nerve and swept to a 7-6.

6-2, 6-3 title win over her French

opponent, Mary Pierce, in the

Women's Tennis Association

The 29-year-old Czech, still

Championship in New York.

best remembered for her tears

when she threw away a third set lead to go down to defeat

against Steffi Graf in the 1993

Wimbledon final, admitted af-. ter her victory on Sunday: "Alas, this isn't a Grand Slam victory.

Novotna, who finished the

season second in the rankings

behind Martina Hingis and

who also won the doubles title

with Lindsay Davenport, said she had used ice on her legs

during the change-overs as a

precaution. She had been wor-

ried that she would not have the

stamina to play through the

a set after four defeats against

the Czech. Pierce, who beat

Hingis in the quarter-finals,

said: "It was just one of those

days. Nothing I did worked."

Pierce is still looking to win

best-of-five-sets final.

But it's the next best thing."

TENNIS

SPORTING DIGEST

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Packers turn on the style

Eastcote's dream of achieving tion was fuelled when his side Dorsey Levens ran riot as the 20-17, in 1991 before the string Bay Packers ended an eightgame losing streak against Dallas with a 45-17 victory over the Cowboys on Sunday.

Levens rushed for a franchise-record 190 yards and Brett Favre passed for four touchdowns, including a pair to the tight-end Mark Chmura, in a dominant third quarter.

None of Green Bay's eight previous losses to Dallas were at Lambeau Field, where the Packers extended their franchise-record home winning streak to 22 games. Green Bay was beaten seven times by the Cowboys over the last four vears at Texas Stadium, including three play-off games.

The last time the teams met in Lambeau Field was back in 1989, and the Packers rolled to a 31-13 victory. The Cowboys beat Green Bay in Milwaukee.

American football

Indianapolis CENTRAL DIVISION

Artzone CENTRAL DIVISION

WESTERN DIVISION

Basketball

MRI: New England 27 Marris 2; Defroit 32 In-dinapole 17; Benessee 37 Buffato 14; NY John 22 Marrisona 21; Chicago 15 Barnos Bay 7; Ari-zona 18 Belémore 15; Alemta 20 New Crisens 3; Green Bay 45 Dalles 17; Philadophia 22 Pitto-burgh 20; Cincinati 31 Jacksonville 28; Kanesa City 35 Sastis 14; San Panciaco 17 San Diago 10; Caroline 16 St Louis 10; NY Giants 7 Wash-Instein 7 Fold.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE EASTERN DIVISION

NBA: Boston 90 Detroit 98; New York 104 Vancouver 84; Chicago 103 Sacramento 88; LA Lakers 119 LA Ciopers 102.

Richie Woodheits-dream of fighting at Madison Squere Garden has been ru-ined by a kidney infection. The former undersated European middleweight champion has been on antibiotics for action of the property of the property.

ated on the penultimate stage

but McRae's five-second mar-

gin of victory on the last sent

both back to headquarters here

those things we hadn't been right direction. able to do since I've been here," said the Packers coach, Mike Holmgren. "Today was

Levens, who also set a career-high with 33 carries and had two touchdowns, broke et Board's technical director. the single-game club record of 186 yards set by Jim Taylor against the New York Giants in 1961. Levens, who rushed for a total of 701 yards in his first three NFL seasons, has rushed

featured back this season. The win was the sixth in seven games for the Packers, who moved one game ahead of Minnesota and Tampa Bay in the NFC Central. The Vikings were beaten 23-21 at the New York Jets and the Buccaneers lost 13-7 at Chicago.

not go through with the 19 December date on the undercard of Prince Naseem Hamed's American debut.

Cricket
Chris Adams will be unvelled as the highest-paid English player in county criciest tomorrow when he signs a three-year contract to become Sussac's new captain. The 27-year-old Derbyshire betsmen has negotiated with several counties since the England and Wales Cricket Board agreed he could be downgraded to a list two player but ordered a two-week "cooling off" period to assess the offers. Despite fierce opposition from Kent and Nottinghamshire, Adams has decided to move south after agreeing a deal which will earn him an estimated £200,000.

Bradford City have terminated the con-tract of Fichard Liburd, after the de-jender pleaded guilty to two charges of common assault at Nottingham Mandatones Court last Fidam.

Magistrates' Court last Friday.
West Bromwich Albion have had a 200000 bid for Oldham Athletics England Under-21 left-back Carl Semant turned down.

Menchester City are to have talks this week with the Swedish striker Mattries Flodström, who plays for At-

Carlo Mazzone resigned yesterday as coach of the Italian Serie A side Napoli

Jim Offver has resigned as the chair-man of financially-threatened Partick Thistie after eight years at the helm. He has been replaced at Firhill with Immediate effect by a former direc-tor, Brown McMaster.

tor, Brown McMaster.
The Luton Town coach Wayne Turner is leaving the Second Division club
after being replaced by youth-team
manager, John Moore.
MATIONWILE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Third Division: Fluture, alterations: Town-rowCreater v Suersee from 28 March; Set 8 Dec
Seaf-sough v Rochded from 20 Dec; Set 28
Merch: Swersee v Chester (from 22 Nov).
SUMDAY'S LATE RESULT: Spenish LangueRed Bets 1 Deportho La Corunt O.
FA CARLSBERG VASE Third-round draw:
Mersles v Bedington; Stockton v Burscough;

after just six games in charge.

imated £200,000.

Footbail

for 1,129 yards as the team's

"But I think that, with players like Ben Hollioake, Owais Shah and David Sales coming

Rallying NETWORK & RAC RALLY Stage 11 (Chel-lushem racecourse No 2, 2 4miles); 7 = Au-rici, Grorholm Smin 07sac; 3 Meldman +6sec; 4 Burns +9; 5 Kuniskunen A Alledgehni 00 Ford Export & Naserra +11; 8 Vaterien, De Mendia 120 to 8 State 1 Intil Meldmann - 2 State 1

Golf
WORLD CUP (Kleweh Island, 8 Carolina) Final scores: 545 Ireland (P Herrington 71 67
68 67, P McGinley 68 70 68 68, 550 Scotland
(R Russel 68 72 M 72, C Montgomels 68 68
66 68 551 United States (D Love 65 69 74 65,
J Lacorard 72, 69 87 70, 554 Whists (I Woodram 74 72 69 64, P Price 72 68 69 69, Garmany (S Stanver 70 75 57 74, A Cylas 83 68
65 72, 553 Spain (I Garrido 67 67 69 67, M-A
Martin 68 74 71 72, 656 England (P Branchuset
68 74 68 72, M Jurnes 68 73 70 69, 551 Zirpbelove, Big New Zoeland, South Africa, 563
Canada, 570 Macdo, 571 Arganitra, Malayda,
Canada, 570 Macdo, 571 Arganitra, Malayda,
Kores, 577 Franca, Australa, 576 Colombia,
578 Switzselm, 585 India, Italy, 687 Membis, 568 Pippines, 582 Paraquey, 568 Novemp,
600 Austria, 697 Telven, 618 Finterst
Leading Inshibitation, 585 for Montgomer's Scot out Austria, 647 (Shean, 618 Finland, Leading Individuals, 286 C Montgomerie (Sco) 86 88 68 68, 288 A Cajan (Car) 85 88 95 72 270 I Gentido (Sp) 57 67 88 67, 272 P McGlar-ley (N) 71 67 68 67, 273 D Love (M) 95 68 97 66, P Herrington (H) 71 67 68 67, 275 T Born (Dan) 88 72 67 67 P Price (Mu) 72 68 69 63, 276 S Walte (N2) 70 70 69 87, 277 J Cocares (Ang) 72 69 69 67, M Jernes (Eng) 68 73 70 66.

66. LIP LIPGA TOUR CHAMPIONESHIP (Las Vegas) Leading Stad scores (US unless states); 277 A Screndiam (Swe) 72 69 67 70 fever at shirt playof finely). Kane 71 68 77 67 Phurst 72 64 73 68. 279 K Webb (Aue) 72 68 72 69. K Rubbhs 73 68 69 71 280 N Lopics 59 69 71 72 281 D Andrews 69 73 67 72, J Iniquet 69 70 70 72 282 C Johnson 72 71 68 71, C Welliam 72 69 68 73 295 H Kobayeshi (Japan) 70 76 70 69, T Green 72 72 69 72 72 Namarra (Swe) 72 69 72 72 73 266 D Papper 70 75 73 68, L Davies (65) 71 71 72 72 297 C Figo-Curl prize 75 75 71, 291 A

ice hockey NHL: Washington 5 Plotida 2: Calgary 3 Car-olina 3: Los Angeles 2 Colorado 1 (at). riol, Gronholm Smin (Uraec, 3 Melaham + Alesc; 4 Burns + 5, 5 Kandenum - Alledghmi 10) Ford Eloont & Naverna + 11; 8 Vaternan, De Mewins + 13; 10 Seirz, Listif, Holowczyo + 5, Stage 12; (Radnor, 11.5millies): 1 R Burns (38) Missibini Carisma 928; 2 B Thirty (Bel) Ford Escort + 17; 3 A McRea (3th) Veltawagen (cell + 12; 4 C Seirz (Sp) Ford Escort + 25; 6 A Vaternan (Fin) Ford Escort + 25; 7 P Least (10) Missibini Larnori + 47; 10 C Estans (33) Seef bizes + 44; Stage 13; 6 Heritres, 24.5 miles); 1 C McRea 28:54; 2 Burns + 22; 3 Seinz and Karistonen + 36; 6 Gronholm + 44; 8 Auriol + 17th 7 Sec; 7 Melaham + 1:24, 8 De Mewins + 1:25, 9 Leit + 1:24, 10 Vaternan + 1:25, Shage 14 (Pentiparthop, 2.75 miles); 1 C McRea 8:45; 2 Sainz + 27; 3 Burns + 41; 4 Karddonen + 5; 5 Auriol + 22; 6 Melaham + 28; 7 Thiry 27; 8 Listif 36; 9 Du Mewins + 41; 10 Vaternan + 43; 5 Auriol 29; 6 Gronholm + 35; 7 Thiry 38; 8 Listif 38, 9 Melaham + 2, 10 Vaternan + 45; 6 Auriol 29; 6 Gronholm + 35; 7 Thiry 38; 8 Listif 38, 9 Melaham + 2, 10 Vaternan + 32; 6 Melaham + 28; 7 Melaham + 28; 6 Melaham + 28; 7 Melaham + 28; 6 Melaham + 28; 7 Melaham + 28; 8 Listif 38, 9 Melaham + 28; 10 Vaternan + 28; 8 Listif 38, 9 Melaham + 28; 6 Melaham + 28; 7 Melaham + 28; 8 Listif 38, 9 Melaham + 28; 8 Melaham + 28; 5 Gronholm + 28; 8 Melaham + 28; 5 Gronholm + 28; 6 Melaham + 28; 6 Melaham + 29; 7 Melaham + 21; 8 Listif 38, 9 Melaham + 28; 6 Melaham + 28; 6 Melaham + 28; 7 Melaham + 28; 8 Melaham + 28; 8 Melaham + 28; 5 Melaham + 29; 7 Melaham + 29; 8 Me

Rugby Union The former French international No 8 Thierry Devergie and the France A hooker Febrica Landreau have joined Bristol from Neeth. The Frenchmen are likely to make their debuts in Bristol's Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup tie at Sale on Saturday. Skiing

Zali Steggell became the first Australian woman to win a World Cup race when she came first in the stalion at Park City, Litah, yesterday. "I didn't come here expecting to win. I wasn't as presumptuous as to hope for that much," she said.

HILCET, IS RIFE SHOULD (Parts City, Utah) Women's shalone: 1 Z Sanggai (Aus) 1:36:50 (48.R. 4812; 2 Y Nowen 18w) 1:3002 (48.R. 4818); 3 C Rangier (NZ) 1:37:35 (4838, 4839); 4 K Karnick (LB) 1:37:25 (4838, 4839); 3 T Ballonick (Na) 1:35:12 (4838, 4839); 6 M Accola (Swit)

ment are assessed and the latest the property of

Squash CATAR INTERNATIONAL (Doba) First round:
JBonstat (Fr) bt M Carris (Erigi 17-14 5-9 5-12A Barada (Egy) bt N Taylor (Erigi 17-5-5-7-1512 5-12-P Nicol (Soo) bt O El Ecroloscy (Egy)
5-7-5-10 5-12-C Watter (Erigi bt A Thoran (Swe)
7-48-8 5-10 5-16, Bhadded (Aus) bt M Circloner (Erigi 11-5-5-7-5-13-5-1)

WTA CHASE CHAMPIONSHIPS (Medison Square Gardens, New York) Finat: J Novo-na (Cz 9ep) bi M Pierce (Fr) 7-6 6-2 5-3. ATP TOUR WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPION-SHIPS (Commedicut) Final: Risech and J Stark (US) bi M Shupathi and L Page (Ind) 6-3-6-4 7-8.

C. LEADING 1987 WTA TOUR FINAL RANK-INGS: 1 M Hingis (Swit) 626-6pt; 2 J Honot-na (Cz Rep) 27/57 2 L Dwerport (US) 3295; 4 A Coetzer (SA) 3360; 5 M Sales (LS) 2298; 6 I Majot (Crost 25/4; 7 M Perce (F) 2261; 8 I Sprins (Pom) 25/7; 9 A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) 2361; 10 M J Fernandez (US) 274

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of lengths swum by the British 200 metres breaststroke champion, Andrew Ayers, who returned to the water yesterday after falling out of a window and breaking two bones in his back only two months ado.

United at the forefront of the television revolution

Greg Dyke, the television executive and Manchester United director, has said he can envisage the day when the Premiership club - who launch their own channel next season - will have a broadcasting monopoly on all matches at Old

Dyke claimed yesterday that United, who already have their own radio station, could one day become the sole broadcaster of home games, and he warned television companies that his club are unlikely to be their own rights."

the only one to go down the same road towards exclusive rights to their own games.

I think that eventually clubs will be able to dictate who broadcasts from their grounds. It will not come immediately, but it will come," he said. *Once there are 150 or 200 channels coming into the home - and that could possibly run into thousands in 20 years from now - then it seems to me inevitable that clubs like Manchester United will control

rights for United's league matches are held by the Premiership, while Uefa, European football's governing body, controls European broadcasts. But Dyke, whose election to the Old Trafford board has coincided with the Reds' first venture into their own TV production, said it may not be too long before the clubs take over.

Manchester United TV will go on air next season, but Dyke says it should not be confused with pay-for-view, which is also

At present broadcasting in the pipeline. "Manchester for-view is that fans will be able United television will be a magazine show which comes some time next year. It'll talk about the club and show youth games and reserve games unless we get permission from the Premiership to show first team games.

"Pay-for-view will come later and it'll be different to television as we have known it up to now. What we have had so far is 'broadcasting' - that is a game available to very large numbers of people.

The League Managers' Association yesterday warned "The advantage of pay-

to buy a season ticket and see

Manchester United games. That

will come in the next five years

and it will mean that if you can't

get tickets for games you will be

able to buy a season ticket and

There may not be more

watch them in your home.

to the present service."

clubs not to become "fashion victims" by rushing to sign foreign managers. With Christian Gross, at

Tottenham, joining Arsène Wenger and Ruud Gullit and Gross in the top flight, the LMA fears the chances for young British coaches may become more limited.

than two or three hundred John Barnwell, the chairman thousand people across the of the LMA, said: "If it gives country watching it, and when our coaches a kick up the backit comes it will be an addition side to get more qualifications and improve, then it might be no bad thing. But what we

have to be careful of is that it should not become a fashion or personality appointment.

We have to leave a way open for young managers to be able to reach the very highest levels of the game."

Critics have suggested that clubs have been forced to look abroad for managers because of a lack of quality coaches in Britain. But Barnwell believes this is not the case, and wants to encourage the movement of managers abroad to create a two-way street.

Blackburn and Arsena took a long time to make an appointment because they find it difficult with a code of conduct in place [which prevents clubs poaching other managers from the same division]." He added "You can't go around just tan ping up other managers and clubs respect that code be

cause it protects them. "I would like to see our man agers and coaches extolling their own virtues abroad. V have proved we have some of the best coaches in the world.

Coleman turns down £2.1m move to Keegan's Fulham

Fulham look to have been thwarted in their attempt to continue their spending spree after the purchase of Blackburn defender Chris Coleman fell through when the two parties failed to agree personal terms.

Although Fulham were prepared to break their transfer record - which was only set a few weeks ago with the purchase of Paul Peschisolido from West Bromwich for £1.2m - with an offer of £2.1m, it seems they were unable to match the player's wages of around £5,000 a week.

Fulham did, however, pay Derby £600,000 yesterday for their midfielder Paul Trollope.

Confusion still surrounds Joe Kinnear's future at Wimbledon after the club declined to comment on speculation that Norway's national coach, Egil Olsen, was set to replace him. Kinnear, who has two vears left on his contract, was vesterday trying to seek clarification of his position and did not turn up at the club's training ground.

ACROSS

1 Doctor meant to change

6 Drink nothing returning

10 Sound of conservative's te-

11 I'm British, designing logo

12 A weak name for beard (3)

13 Piece of machinery to dis-

could be about right (9)

such sales? (4.3.7)
18 Father's camp discipline is the result of quackery?

about new A merican signs of hostility (3,6)

15 Plain man's return from

22 Women awfully scared

play decay on gold (5) 14 Epithet given to bisque

with one in perplexing situ-

dious to Scotland (5)

from work (4)

ation (9)

Kinnear said: "If they want to replace me why don't they come clean about it? If that is the way they carry on behind your back then I don't want to work for them. I knew Egil Olsen was at the game on Saturday and I have heard all the rumours but there is nothing I can do about it. It is out of my hands."

However, a spokesman for the club's Norwegian owner's Wyndmore, played down any talk of Olsen replacing Kinnear. "Olsen had the chance to see four Norwegian players at the same time," Jan Petter Storetvedt said. "It is a source of regret that Joe Kinnear is frustrated, but we don't think he has grounds to be. He has received clear signals that Wimbledon wants him to see the

contract out." Bolton Wanderers have denied their South African defender Mark Fish permission to play for the Rest of the World against Europe in Marseilles on 4 December in an exhibition match which precedes the World

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

at the number of Premiership matches Fish is missing because of international call-ups, a problem which was not helped by yesterday's announcement of his inclusion in the South African national squad to face Brazil on 7 December.

After captaining his side to a 3-1 win over West Ham on Sunday, Leeds defender David Wetherall has signed a new fiveyear contract with the fourthplaced Premiership side.

Fifa, the governing body of world football, is hoping to succeed where diplomatic efforts have failed by trying to set up a friendly match between Palestine and Israel in New York. The sport's world governing body is holding talks with the Palestinian President, Yasser Arafat, about organising the game.

Exeter City's player-coach, Noel Blake, could make his international debut for Jamaica, where he grew up, in the World Cup finals - at the age of 36. Catherine Riley

5 New woman's haircut en-

ties (6)

user (6.8)

steels (8)

which consumers might like 19 Perhaps fan of tune charac-(8)

trances a rich easterner (5)

Cut up old instrument and

spoil the environment (7)

Debated, when surrounded

by quiet, without irregulari-

Old cinema movement re-

portedly chose to upset

16 Perhaps peels to go to bed for excessive spell? (9)

second in formation of

21 To work wrapping wife in minimally laminated mater

ial (3-3)
23 Taking care to be correct

about name of bird (5)

17 Anxiously awaiting right

20 Love fancy doilies (7)



Captains united: Graham Gooch (left) and Michael Atherton in the indoor nets at Chelmsford yesterday

Captain Atherton goes back to school

session in an indoor net features 191 Test caps. But then it is not every

day that Michael Atherton, troubled by minor defects in his game, consults his illustrious predecessor for a series of "tutorials" before he departs to do battle in

the West Indies. Yesterday Derek Pringle was at Chelmsford to watch.

"Keep looking towards me," shouts Graham Gooch, as he sends another bouncer down at the England captain from 18 yards. "It will help you avoid the odd blow," he adds with a malicious, knowing chuckle, the kind that implies the forthcoming tour of the Caribbean will be about as comforting as going five rounds with Mike Tyson with his gumshield removed.

Don't get too low. When you do, your bead pops outside the line of off-stump," comes

back netting to bulge inches behind where Atherton's head

had been just before. For those accustomed to having their cricket nets in April, these may be unlikely sounds to be hearing on a brassy November afternoon. These days, however, the quest for improvement knows no seasons, and Atherton has been afforded a rare opportunity to work on his game. More importantly, it is a chance to work with someone he trusts and who knows him

and his game well. The nets with Goochie aren't specifically to do with the West Indies tour coming up," the England captain points out, scotching the theory that he is preparing himself for the working over the West Indies' fast bowlers normally reserve for visiting captains, "It's just that over time, things creep into your game, and the Windies tour is the only one which gives you the time to tinker about with your technique

and put it in good order. 'If you are going to make adjustments, though, I think it is important to do it with someone who is not coming

the innings together for England about 40 times, so he knows what to look for."

As tutors go, Gooch is undoubtedly a Regius Professor of fast bowling. While all around were getting blown away by the West Indian pace batteries that terrorised batsmen and dominated the world stage for over 15 years, Gooth remained steadfast and unflinching, a granite island in a sea of shattered stumps and

Fortunately, things are not nearly so extreme now. The West Indies have since been toppled from their perch by a resurgent Australia and a limit on the number of bouncers they can bowl in an over. It is these two factors, along with an ageing new ball attack, that England will be hoping to take advantage of when they tour the Caribbean early in the new year.

However, first they must put runs on the board, and Atherton becomes cagey when I suggest that the importance of seeing off the new ball is paramount to England's chances of winning the Tests series. In any case, whatever it is

vulged, though, by the way the area behind the popping crease is covered with powdered chalk, one suspects it is to do

with the movement of his feet. This is more or less confirmed after the 40-minute net which includes the Essex bowler Danny Law and a youngster called Damien Brandy - when master and pupil repair to a cubbyhole to analyse the video.

"Your feet were moving superbly," Gooch says. "You didn't get squared up at all to-

"Not bad," counters Atherton nodding, the understatement as blunt and ever present as that famous forward defensive.

For those with a fair smattering of strokes, batting is all about balance and confidence. Yet, as far as Atherton is concerned, both these aspects suffered last summer, as Glenn McGrath ~ largely on bowlerfriendly surfaces - dismissed him time and again, mainly with awkward bouncers between chest and throat high. Trying to evade such deliveries when you have a chronic back problem is easier said

It is not every day that the shout a few balls later, as from a vastly different stand- that he and Gooch have been than done, and Atherton struganother bumper causes the point. Graham and I opened tinkering with is not readily di- gled, mainly because he was losing his balance and toppli over outside the line of the ball.

Achieving balance the Gooch way, though, is all about co-ordinating your foot and head movement so that you are in a consistent yet relaxed position to play whatever

ball is sent down. "If you're meeting the ball off both back and front foot with your body weight forward and with the full face of the bat, everything else will follow," Gooch says, "and surprise bouncers won't catch you out of position, like they occasionally did with Athers last

summer. "Mike has as good a technique as anyone, probably since Geoff Boycott. But that doesn't mean it's OK to stand still. You've got to keep pressing for improvements. Bowlers do and I can see the likes of Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh perhaps targeting Mike with short balls to the

півсаде."

It was the first time the tutor had stated the obvious, but as he and many batsmen will know from facing fast bowling, expecting it and playing are two quite different matters.

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24 Illegal seller catches river

Romanian coin (3)

lish Dean (9)

One's out of place having

Walk to concert upset Eng-

Clerks who try to sell things

to sheep farmers? (3-7)

Satellite controls a vehicle

Simple boat in river is

enough for US conscript

Times of smoking? (9.5)

with these changes (9)

Sail could produce power

Lift sappers, suppressing

instances of sloth (5)

28 No indication of pain in cowardly shout (4)

harest vs Aston Villa live from 6 **③ ②** ○ ●